

Attachment B3

**Draft Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Needs Strategy 2026 – Volume 2, p126-181**

Sports fields and ovals

Sports fields are among the most heavily utilised recreation assets in the City and will experience increasing pressure as the population grows.

Current provision

There are 36 public sports fields and ovals in our local area.

- 17 sports fields and ovals are managed by the City of Sydney. The other 19 are managed by other government agencies.
- There are also fields adjacent to our area including Camperdown Oval and multiple fields in Centennial Park.

At the University of Sydney, University Oval 1 and University Oval 2 are included in the assessment as they provide a degree of public access, although they are not available for community bookings. Other sporting fields associated with the University's residential colleges have not been included due to their restricted access. Similarly, the sports field within the Wentworth Park Greyhound Racing Complex has been excluded from the assessment as it is not available for general community use.

Since 2016, the City has delivered four synthetic turf fields, while Greater Sydney Parklands has added one synthetic sports field and a community turf sports field at Moore Park East following the removal of event car parking.

Assessing future demand

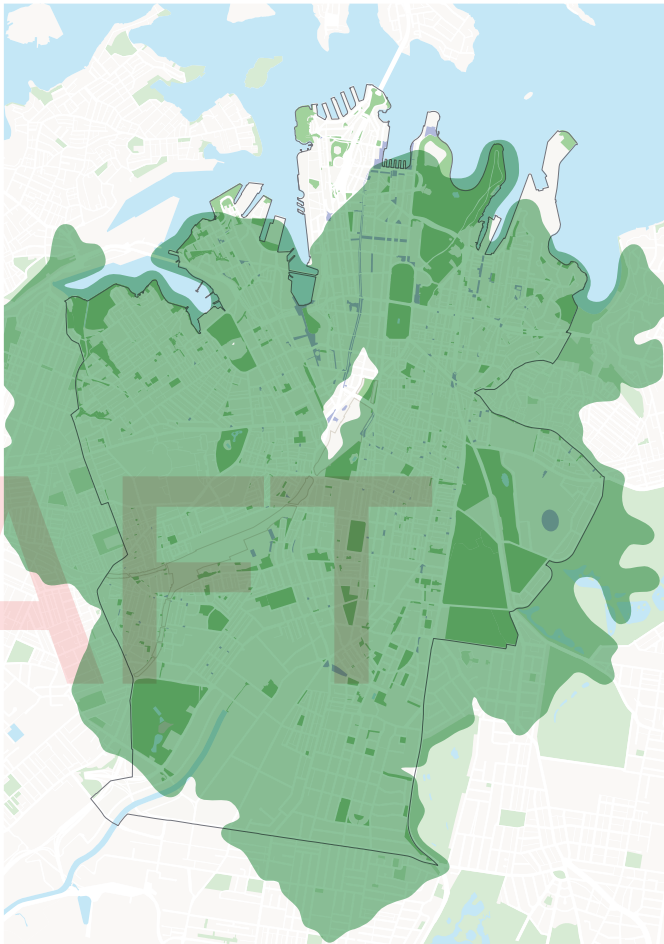
Based on 2016 bench marks of 1 field per 5,600 residents and allowance 1 field per 120,000 workers and 2046 population projection potentially 20 turf fields will be required. If synthetic playing surfaces are considered, the overall field requirement could be reduced to around 11 fields.

Demand for sporting fields currently exceeds supply, with all fields operating at high booking levels at peak times. Turf fields are typically used for more than 30 hours per week, while synthetic fields are used for up to 50-60 hours per week.

The 900–1200 metre walking catchment fields and ovals are generally well distributed across the local area and recognises the Moore Park, which

provides a significant concentration of fields serving residents, sporting clubs and visitors from across the local government area and beyond. (Figure XX)

Figure 39: 900–1200m catchment



Issues

- As participation continues to grow and populations increase, sports fields will remain a critical component of the City's recreation network. However, the availability of suitable land for new facilities remains limited, creating challenges in meeting future demand
- Environmental and health concerns such as end-of-life disposal, microplastic runoff, and increased urban heat—remain significant issues associated with synthetic surfaces.
- Turf fields and ovals are regularly required to close for rehabilitation due to high levels of use,

as well as during wet weather events, which further reduces the number of hours available for sport and recreation.

- Turf fields also receive significant casual use in addition to booked hours resulting in additional wear and pressure on turf surfaces particularly where access to or provision to large open space is limited.
- Demand for evening training and competition continues to increase. Lighting upgrades will become increasingly important to maximise the usable capacity of existing fields, particularly as hotter temperatures encourage greater evening participation.
- storage provision for clubs ongoing issue.

The City is committed to increasing tree canopy cover across the local area to mitigate impacts of a hotter climate, Given the large footprints of sports fields and ovals, balancing tree canopy cover and field provision will be an ongoing challenge.

Trends

The use of synthetic sports fields is increasing to expand playing capacity, particularly where opportunities for new field development are limited. While synthetic surfaces can accommodate significantly more use than natural turf, considerations relating to disposal, microplastics and urban heat remain important.

Increased evening and night-time participation is also driving demand for sports lighting, reflecting both climate adaptation and changing recreation patterns.

Planned provision

A number of projects are planned or proposed that will increase sports field capacity across the City.

- Mandible Street x 1 field
- Wentworth Park - additional field available wider use with cessation greyhound racing.
- Moore Park South x 1 field

While these projects will make an important contribution to the network, they are unlikely to

fully meet future demand, reinforcing the need to optimise existing facilities and continue advocating for additional opportunities.

Future opportunities to increase provision

- School shared use: Explore partnerships with schools to increase community access to existing sports fields and ovals outside school hours, particularly in areas where demand exceeds available capacity
- Victoria Barracks: Subject to Defence requirements and any future land-use changes, Victoria Barracks may present a long-term opportunity to increase the provision of open space and sporting facilities within the local area
- Land acquisition: Investigate strategic land acquisition opportunities should suitable sites become available, particularly co-locating with existing fields.
- Sydney University ovals: Continue discussions with the University of Sydney regarding opportunities to expand community access to existing sports fields and ovals through shared-use arrangements and partnership agreements.

Strategic considerations

Meeting future demand for sports fields and ovals will be increasingly challenging given limited opportunities for new field development and ongoing population growth.

Future provision should focus on maximising the capacity of the existing network through upgrades, improved lighting, enhanced supporting infrastructure, selective use of synthetic surfaces, and flexible field design. Expanding shared-use partnerships with schools, universities government agencies and other landowners will also be important in accommodating future demand.

Strategic responses

Direction	Response	Reference
Increase the provision of sports field and oval provision	Future planned provision – Mandible Sports Precinct - 1 field – Moore Park South -1 field (Greater Sydney Parklands) – Wentworth Park -1 additional field available wider use with cessation greyhound racing.	
Provision - potential opportunities	Victoria Barracks - any future renewal recommend to retain existing field for community sport	
Future acquisition opportunities	– Future land acquisition should prioritise co-location with existing sports fields – Co-located fields enable more efficient programming, shared infrastructure, improved accessibility and better use of limited land	
Encourage multi-purpose use of sport fields and ovals	Ensure future sport field and oval sizes and configurations (new and future upgrades) allow for multi-purpose and flexible uses.	
Synthetic surfaces	– Use synthetic surfaces to considered on case by case basis to balanced with environmental and sustainability considerations, planning assessment and appropriate site selection. – Existing natural fields to remain natural turf.	
Create space for casual sports and recreation	Increase capacity of existing parks with large turf/ lawn areas to better accommodate casual active recreation. Existing parks may include (but not limited to reduce pressure on formal competition playing fields	
Amenity improvements - Increase field capacity and playable hours	Upgrade existing field lighting, change rooms, storage ,toilets and supporting amenity to facilitate the extension of playable hours into the evening, where appropriate. – Jubilee Oval (underway) – Alexandria Park (underway) – Waterloo Oval – Wentworth Park	
Evening / night time use	Sport field amenities should provide inclusive and accessible change rooms and toilets for all genders and people with disability. – Prioritise sportsfield lighting for training and casual recreation purposes. – Undertake further investigation before providing competition-standard lighting, particularly for hard-ball sports, to assess impacts on neighbouring amenity, light spill, operating hours, native fauna and biodiversity values.	
Equity of use	City continue and expand annual expressions of interest processes to ensure field allocations support diversity, gender equity, and a broad range of sports able to access City fields.	
Encourage partnerships and shared use	– Assess opportunity for after-hours and shared weekend public access to sports fields and ovals currently controlled by institutions—such as universities and schools—where community use is restricted through formal agreements. – Potential partners include the University of Sydney, Sydney Secondary College, Glebe	

Figure 40: Sportsfields and ovals

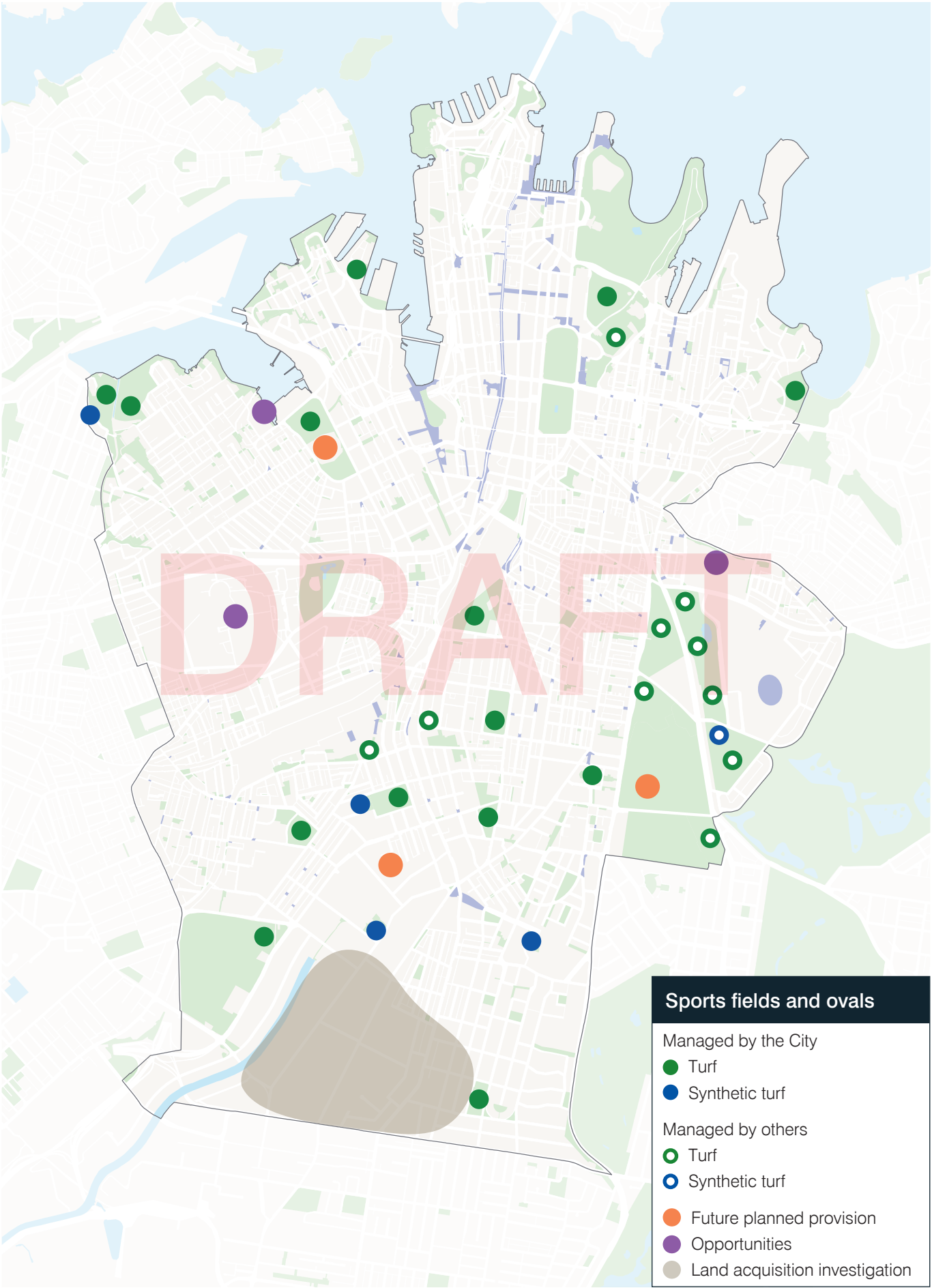


Table 10: Existing sports field and ovals

Existing sports field or oval		Field type	Qty	Managed by
1	Alan Davidson Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
2	Alexandria Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
4	Erskineville Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
6	Federal Park	Field - turf	1	City of Sydney
7	Getiela Sports field	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney & Minister of Education Training & Youth Affairs
8	Gunyama Park	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney
9	Jublee Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
10	Perry Park	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney
11	Redfern Oval	Field - turf	1	City of Sydney
12	Reg Bartley Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
13	The Crescent Synthetic Sports Field	Field - Synthetic turf	1	City of Sydney
14	Turruwul Park	Field - turf	1	City of Sydney
15	Waterloo Oval	Oval - turf	1	City of Sydney
16	Wentworth Park	Field - turf	4	City of Sydney
17	Moore Park - Bat and Ball Field	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
18	Moore Park - Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	Field - Synthetic turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
19	Moore Park - ES Marks Athletics Field	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
20	Moore Park - Kippax Lake Field	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
21	Moore Park - Moore Park West	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
22	Moore Park - Robertson Road Fields	Field (cricket) - turf	4	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
23	Moore Park - Tramway Oval	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
24	Moore Park - Upper Kippax	Field - turf	1	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
25	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Field - turf	1	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
26	The Domain Crescent Fields	Field - turf	3	Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust
27	The Domain Phillip Precinct	Informal field - turf	2	Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust
28	Sydney University Oval 1 and 2	Field - turf	2	Sydney University
Total			36	

Table 11: Planned sports field and ovals

Planned sports field or oval	Qty	Managed by
Mandible sports precinct	1	City of Sydney
Moore Park South	1	Greater Sydney Parklands
Wentworth Park	1	City of Sydney

Table 12: Potential future sports fields and ovals

Potential sports field or oval	Qty
Victoria Barracks	1
Glebe Secondary School	1
Land acquisition investigation area	1

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Aquatic facilities and swimming in Harbour

Aquatic facilities are among the City's most important recreation assets, supporting a wide range of activities including lap swimming, leisure swimming, learn-to-swim programs, aquatic fitness, rehabilitation, water play and social recreation

Current provision

There are 9 aquatic facilities in our local area. 6 are managed by the City. They are generally evenly distributed across the local area.

In addition, 1 harbour swimming facility - Marrinawi Cove, a sheltered 700m2 enclosure at the northern end of Barangaroo Reserve was open to the public in 2023 offering swimming in Sydney Harbour. (Infrastructure NSW)

Since 2016, the City has delivered one additional aquatic facility at Green Square and completed the replacement of the existing Prince Alfred Park Pool.

Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool has undergone significant renewal works, delivering improvements to sustainability, asset condition, amenity and accessibility.

The City also continues an ongoing program of upgrades and maintenance across its aquatic facilities, with a strong focus on improving water and energy sustainability outcomes.

Outside our area there are 4 public pools within 10km of our local area. Many of these pools have undergone, have underway or programmed for upgrades.

Many recent and future apartment developments include pool facilities. The region is also has convenient access to eastern suburbs beaches and ocean pools.

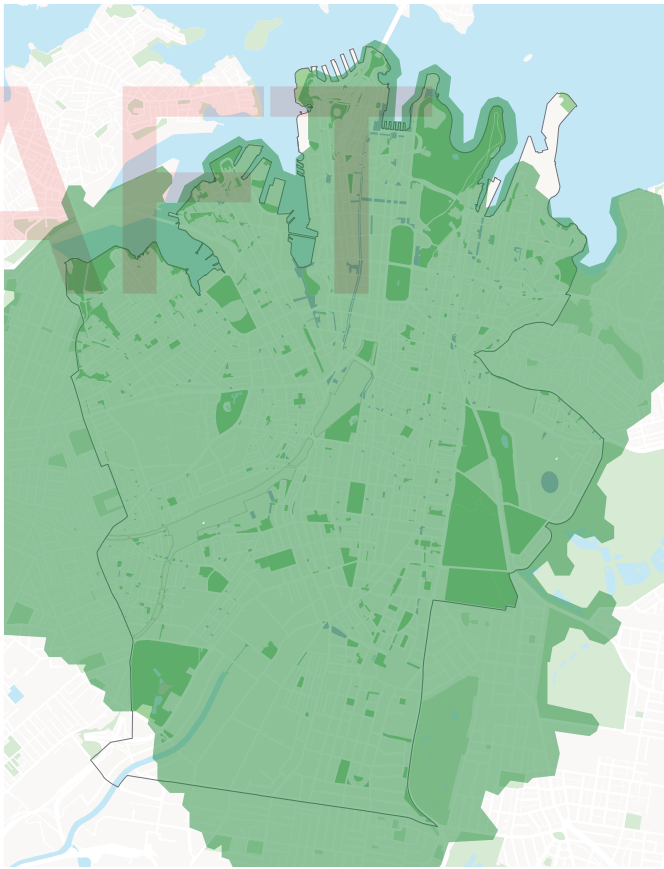
Trends

Swimming remains one of the most popular recreation activities in Australia, reflecting its broad appeal across age groups and abilities. Over 1 million people visit the City's aquatic facilities annually.

- Leisure pool facilities such as beach/waddling pools, slides and water spouts for fun and play are popular with children and families.

- Inclusivity and universal access are key priorities for communities, ensuring people of all ages and abilities can access the facilities.
- Demand for hydrotherapy/ warm water pools for older residents, rehabilitation and water therapy remains high.
- Demand for learn-to-swim, child safety, school and squad programs will continue.
- Harbour cities across the world are increasingly utilising their urban waterways for swimming and recreation through water quality improvements and amenity provision.

Figure 41: 2km catchment for aquatic pool facilities (City and other providers)



Assessing future demand

The City is well served by aquatic infrastructure with most residents within 2km of a facilities and all within a 3km catchment. This includes facilities by other entities such as Sydney University.

While there is good access to general aquatic facilities in Sydney's inner metropolitan area, there is demand with regard to health (hydrotherapy), relaxation and water play infrastructure.

Issues

As Sydney's residential and working populations grow, demand for facilities will increase for exercise, health and well being programs and swimming lessons, as well as for refuge during extreme heat days driven by climate change.

Aquatic facilities require ongoing investment, renewal and upgrading to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose, accessible and environmentally sustainable.

Sydney Harbour is a significant natural asset and aquatic recreation facility that is currently under-utilised. The main cause for its underutilisation for is water quality and sediment issues. However there are also limited access points or locations that facilitate recreational swimming.

Strategic considerations

The City of Sydney is currently well-served by aquatic facilities. Future planning should prioritise timely asset renewal to maintain high standards of service, energy efficiency and accessibility.

Facilities also need to evolve with changing recreation trends and community expectations, incorporating flexible programming, inclusive design, and integration with broader health and wellbeing initiatives.

In line with the City's commitment to net zero emissions by 2035, aquatic facilities are incorporated into the Net Zero program, contributing to emissions reduction through sustainable design and operations across energy, buildings, transport, and waste.

Given the popularity of Marrinawi Cove the City should continue advocating for and working with the NSW Government and Sydney Water to improve water quality and make more edges along the foreshore accessible for swimming.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Provision: currently well-served by aquatic facilities.	Future planning should prioritise programmed asset renewal to maintain high standards of service , environmental sustainability and accessibility.	
Asset renewal: Upgrade and maintain existing assets as required	- Programmed upgrades to the City's aquatic facilities to ensure infrastructure remains fit-for-purpose, improve accessibility and integrates energy- and water-efficient technologies. - Priorities include Victoria Park Pool - Prince Alfred Park Pool electrification	
Ongoing advocacy to increase opportunities for swimming in the harbour	- Continue advocacy and collaboration on harbour swimming initiatives; however, access and safety require further investigation in partnership with Sydney Water and other NSW Government agencies. - Advocacy to expand and improve facilities for Marrinawi Cove.	
Strategic planning	Review City Aquatic Facilities Development Strategy 2005 to provide direction on future programming and facility improvements of City facilities.	

Figure 42: Aquatic facilities

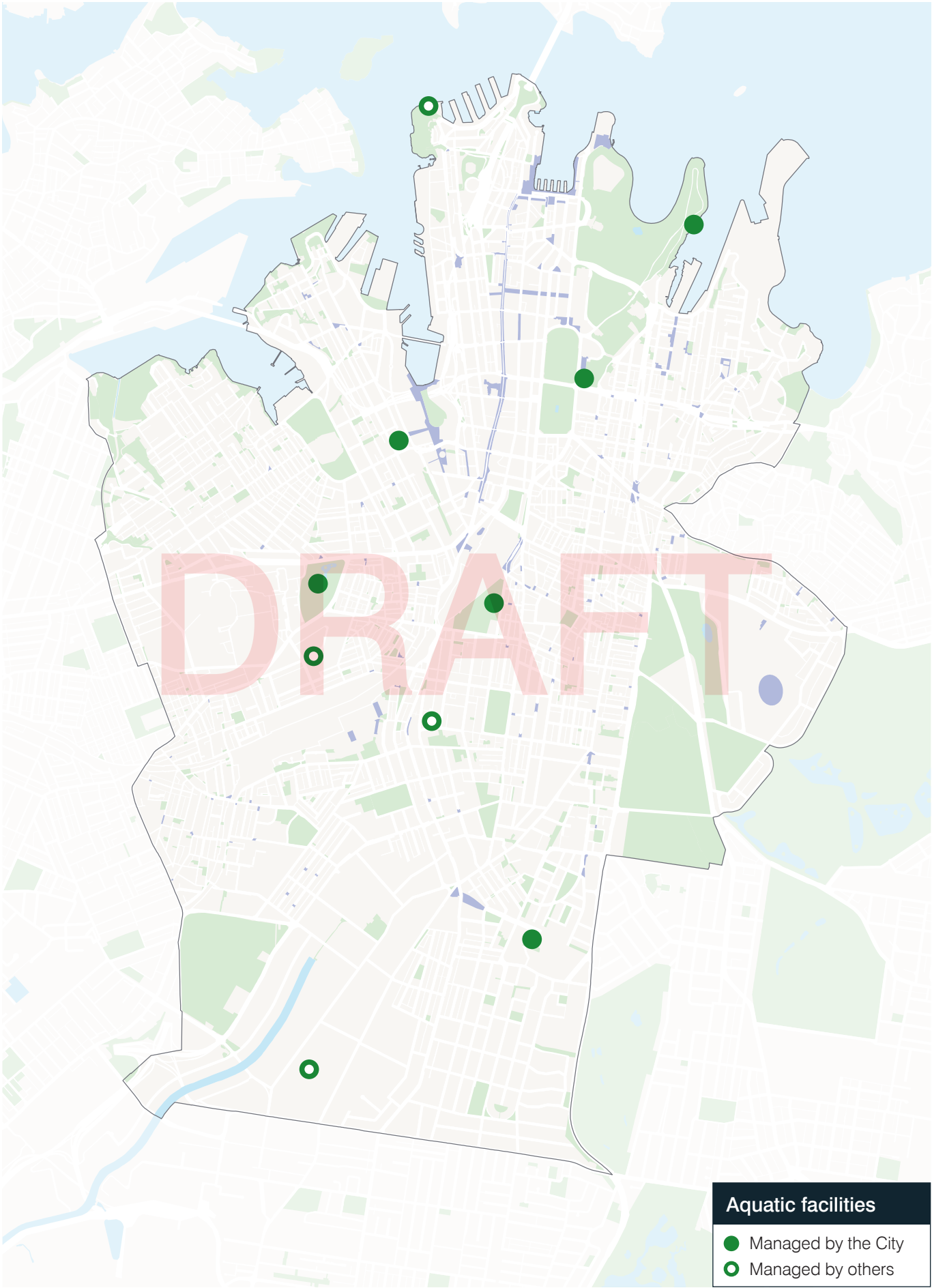


Table 13: Existing aquatic centre/facility

Aquatic centre/facility		Facility type	Managed by	Village
1	Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool	– 50m outdoor pool – 20m outdoor (shaded) pool	City of Sydney	CBD & Harbour
2	Aquatic Achievers Swim School Alexandria	– 25m indoor pool	Aquatic Achievers Swim School	Green Sq & City Sth
3	Cook & Phillip Park Aquatic Centre	– 50m indoor pool – Indoor leisure pool – Indoor hydro-therapy pool	City of Sydney	Green Sq & City Sth
4	Gunyama Park Aquatic Centre	– 50m outdoor pool – Outdoor beach pool – 25m indoor pool – Indoor leisure pool – Indoor hydro-therapy pool	City of Sydney	Green Sq & City Sth
5	Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre	– 50m outdoor pool	City of Sydney	Harris St
6	Marrinawi Cove	– Ocean bath	Infrastructure NSW	CBD & Harbour
7	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	– 25m indoor pool	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Redfern St
8	Prince Alfred Park Pool	– 50m outdoor pool – Outdoor splash deck	City of Sydney	Redfern St
9	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic Centre	– 50m indoor pool	City of Sydney	Redfern St
10	Victoria Park Pool	– 50m outdoor pool – Outdoor splash pool	City of Sydney	Redfern St

Outdoor court facilities

Outdoor multi-purpose court facilities provide free, accessible recreation opportunities for the community.

Full, half and practice courts support a wide range of activities including basketball, netball and informal games on hard-stand surfaces catering to different ages, skill levels and styles of play.

Outdoor courts also include dedicated bookable tennis facilities, which are designed to support a single sport that provide opportunities for both social and competitive play and coaching.

Current provision

There are 104 outdoor court facilities in our local area. 49 are managed by the City. They include:

- 6 basketballs courts
- 5 basketball half-courts
- 3 basketball practice/ free throw rings
- 3 netball practice rings
- 10 multi-purpose courts
- 18 tennis courts
- 4 hot shot/junior tennis courts

55 are managed by other government agencies or private providers. They include:

- 2 basketball courts
- 2 basketball half courts
- 5 netball courts
- 10 multi-purpose courts
- 35 tennis courts

Issues

In some locations, increasing use can create operational challenges associated with noise, lighting and nearby residential development.

Accommodating preferred 4-court complex arrangements for tennis will be difficult due to land size requirements needed and other competing open space recreation demand.

Trends

- Basketball hoops and smaller courts are heavily used for informal youth play, while organised competition demand is primarily met through indoor courts.
- Recreation demand for multi-purpose court space for informal/ casual use by young people is expected to increase with population growth and popularity of modified formats such a 3 x 3 basketball.
- Netball training and practice take place on single and double multi-use courts across the City, while competition matches are hosted at dedicated multi court centres such as Heffron Park, Maroubra.
- Tennis participation still strong will City facilities over 60% booking use.
- Growing growing demand for alternative racquet sports such as pickleball and padel (paddle ball). Private sector provision is increasing particularly for pickleball.

Assessing future demand

Based on 2016 bench mark of maintaining the year 2015 supply ratio of 1:2179 and 2046 population projection an additional 40-46 outdoor courts will be required consisting of 26 multi-use courts and 20 tennis courts.

The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that multi use courts courts are accessible from many parts of the City, although coverage is not universal. Given the limited number of facilities available to serve the wider community, some areas may experience reduced convenience of access and competition for court availability.

The mapping identifies opportunities to expand the network through the provision of additional courts in areas with lower levels of accessibility. These include:

- southern employment lands
- East Glebe, Camperdown
- City south
- East Sydney, Surry Hills and Redfern areas

Courts provide access to recreation opportunities across many parts of the City, although coverage is not uniform and some areas remain outside the preferred walking catchment.

However, the development of new courts needs to carefully consider site planning and design requirements, particularly where facilities are located near residential areas. Noise, evening use, lighting, ball impacts and increased activity levels can create amenity impacts if not appropriately managed.

Strategic considerations

- Protect existing courts from removal and identify opportunities for additional multi-purpose courts to meet increasing demand.
- Locate courts to minimise potential amenity impacts through appropriate site selection, buffers, operating hours and lighting design.
- Prioritise free-to-use, well-distributed facilities to support equitable access across neighbourhoods and age groups.
- Maximise shared use and flexible court design to support a range of recreation activities, including emerging sports such as pickleball, and make efficient use of limited urban land.

Figure 43: 600-800m catchment of multi-purpose courts



Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Increasing provision to address gaps	Planned new full multi purpose court provision recommendations: – Mandible Sports Precinct x 4 – Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands) x 1 – Bank Street Park (Place NSW) x 1 – Wentworth Park x 2	
Planned outdoor half / practice court provision	Planned new half/practice courts for: – Harry Noble Reserve x 3 – Mandible Sports Precinct x 1 – Wentworth Park x 2	
Future considerations for provision	Parks for feasibility assessment include: – Waterloo Estate South Park – Sydney Park	
Improve amenity and quality of existing courts	Programmed upgrades include: – Hugo Street Reserve multi purpose court; – Alexandria Park tennis courts; – Minogue Reserve – ongoing asset renewal program works for courts as required	
Tennis court provision	Prioritise activating and improving existing tennis facilities to support casual use, coaching, and competition, and increase awareness of available court time during off-peak hours. Ongoing asset upgrade of tennis court facilities as required.	
Pickleball	Investigate opportunities to convert selected courts to include pickleball line marking, subject to operational requirements, stakeholder consultation and demonstrated demand.	
Adaptable multi-purpose use	Majority of outdoor courts should be multi- purpose courts with some dedicated provision for a single code suitable where a number of courts are co-located. future full size multipurpose courts to be units of 40 x 22m to be adaptable for wide range of recreation court uses.	
Partnerships	Explore partnerships to provide new shared access multi – purpose courts, with: – Newtown High School of Performing Arts – National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Redfern	

Figure 44: Outdoor courts

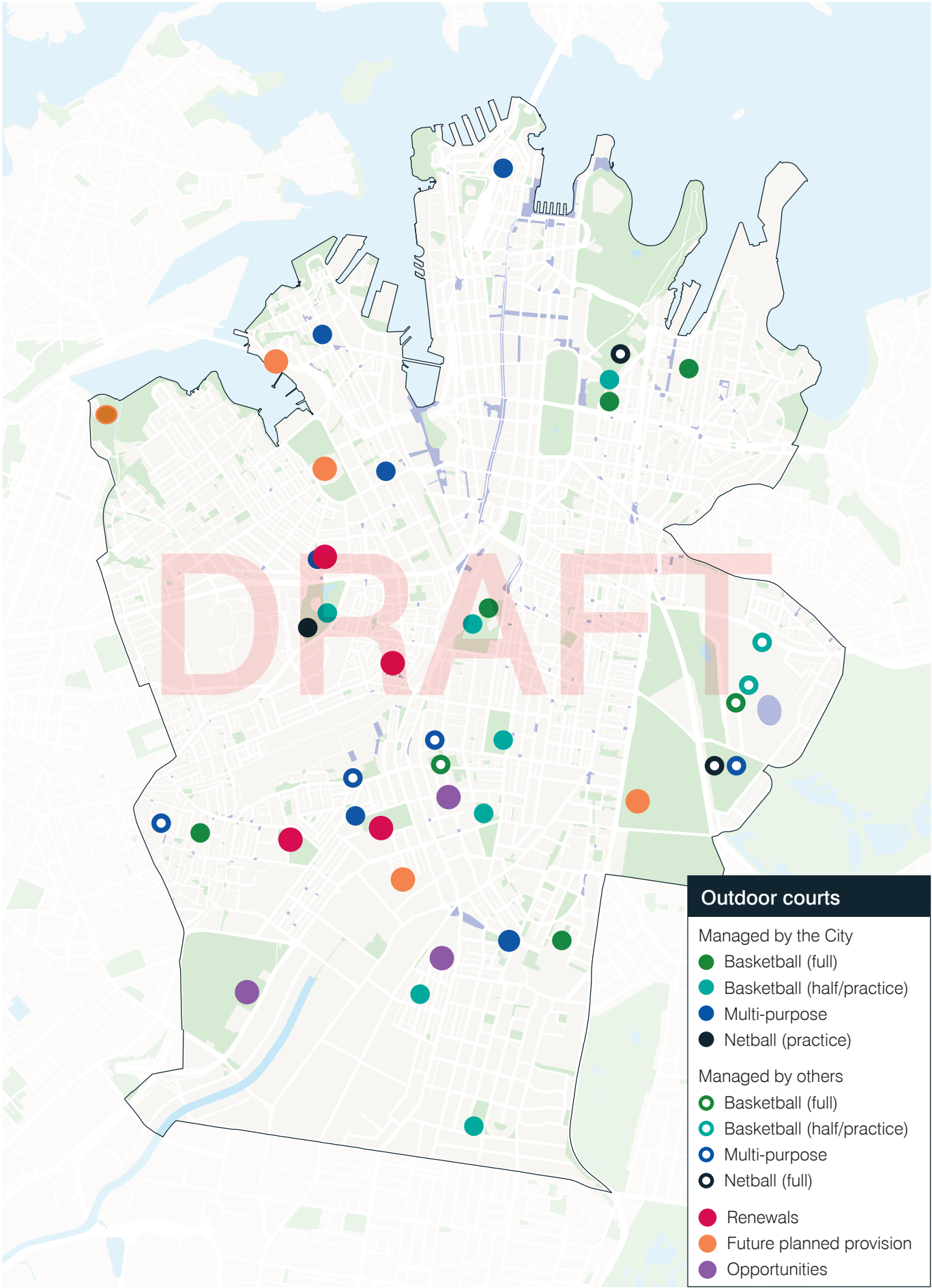


Table 14: Outdoor court provision

Outdoor court		Type of court	Qty	Managed by
1	Alexandria Park	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
2	Beaconsfield Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
3	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	Multipurpose	8	By others
4	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	Netball	4	By others
5	Cook & Phillip Park	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
6	Cook & Phillip Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
7	Getiela Sportsfield (Alexandria Park Community School)	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
8	Harry Noble Reserve	Basketball - Practice hoop	1	City of Sydney
9	Harry Noble Reserve	Netball - Practice hoop	2	City of Sydney
10	Hugo & Vine St Reserve	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
11	Joseph Sargeant Centre	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
12	King George V Recreation Centre	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
13	Lillian Fowler Reserve (Newtown Public School)	Multipurpose	1	By others
14	Maybanke Community Centre	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
15	Minogue Reserve	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
16	Green Square Primary School	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
17	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (fmr Eora Sports, Art and Recreation Centre)	Multipurpose	1	By others
18	Nuffield Park (Zetland Basketball Court)	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
19	Prince Alfred Park	Basketball	2	City of Sydney
20	Prince Alfred Park	Basketball - Practice hoop	1	City of Sydney
21	Redfern Park	Basketball - Practice hoop	2	City of Sydney
22	South Eveleigh Sports Courts (fmr Australian Technology Park)	Multipurpose	2	By others
23	Sydney Football Stadium forecourt	Basketball - Practice hoop	1	Venues NSW
24	The Domain Sports Fields (DC1)	Netball	1	By others
25	Turruwul Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
26	Ultimo Community Centre	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
27	Victoria Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
28	Victoria Park	Netball - Practice hoop	1	City of Sydney
29	Waterloo Green - Raglan Street	Basketball	1	By others
30	Waterloo Park	Basketball - Half court	1	City of Sydney
31	Woolloomooloo Playground	Basketball	1	City of Sydney
32	Hoops Park - EQ Moore Park	Basketball Basketball - half	1 4	by others
Total			47	

Figure 45: Tennis courts/racquet sports

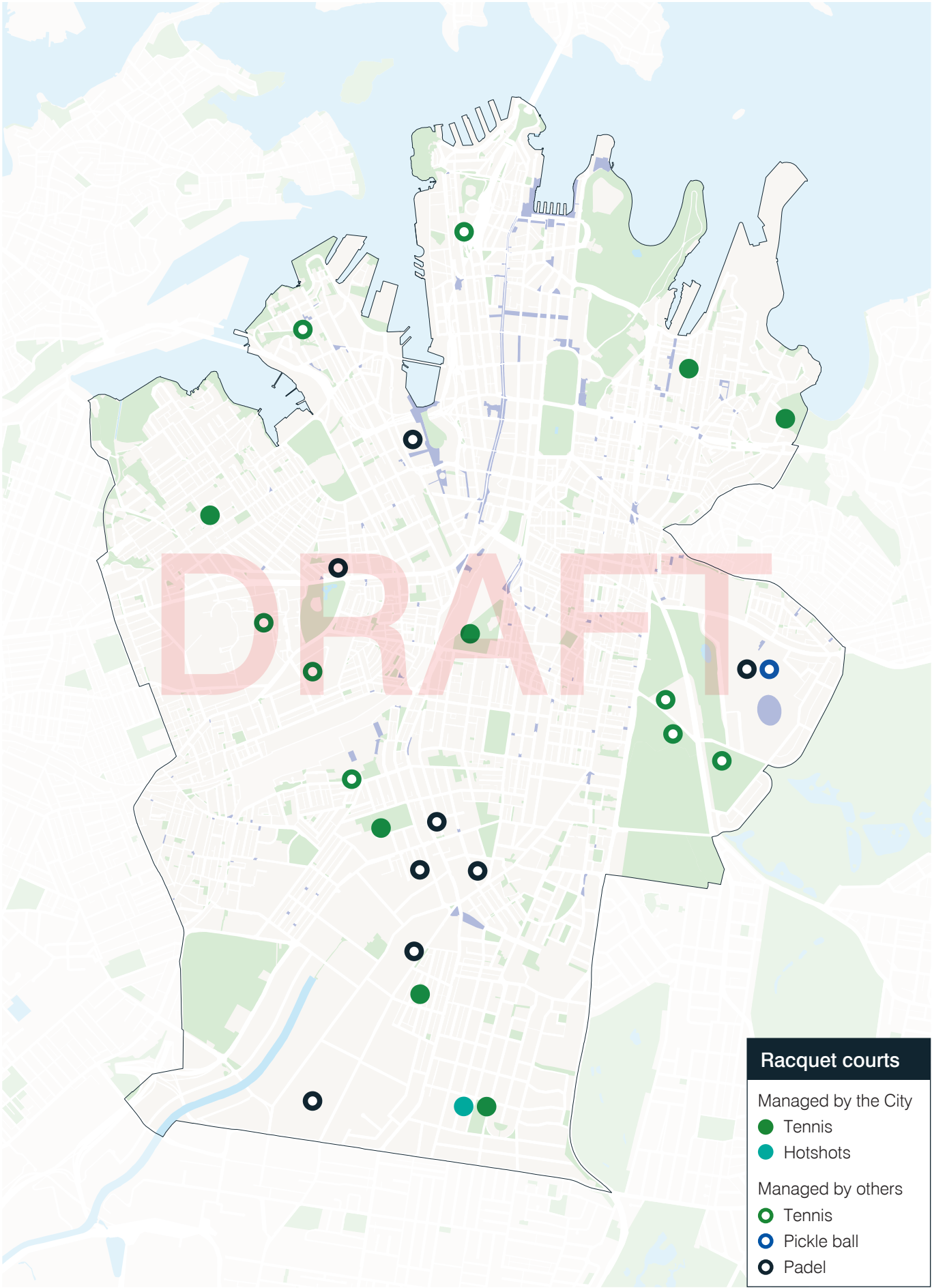


Table 15: Racquet sport courts provision

Tennis court		Qty	Type of court	Managed by
1	Alexandria Park	2	Tennis	City of Sydney
2	Beaconsfield Park	2	Tennis	City of Sydney
3	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre	9	Tennis	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
4	Centennial Parklands Sports Centre (Moore Park Golf Course)	4	Tennis	Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust
8	Jacksons Landing Tennis Courts	2	Tennis	Place Management NSW
9	Kent Street Tennis Court (Millers Point Tennis Centre)	1	Tennis	The Langham
10	Prince Alfred Park	5	Tennis	City of Sydney
11	Rushcutters Bay Tennis Centre	5	Tennis	City of Sydney
12	South Eveleigh Sports Courts (fmr Australian Technology Park)	1	Tennis	Eveleigh Precinct Pty Ltd
13	St James Park Tennis Courts	2	Tennis	City of Sydney
14	Sydney Boys High School - Tennis courts	4	Tennis	NSW Department of Education
15	Sydney Uni - Sports and Aquatic Centre	6	Tennis	The University of Sydney
16	Sydney University Lawn Tennis Club	8	Tennis	The University of Sydney
17	Turruwul Park	1	Tennis	City of Sydney
18	Turruwul	4	Tennis-hotshots	City of Sydney
Total				

Table 16: Racquet sport courts provision

Other racquet courts	Qty	Type of court	Managed by
Entertainment Quarter - Moore Park Racquet Club	5	Pickel ball	Other
Entertainment Quarter - Moore Park Racquet Club	3	Padel	Other
ProPickle (indoor)	6	Pickleball	Other
House of Pickle	7	Pickleball	Other
Pickleball Island	2	Pickleball	Other
Broadway Pickle	4	Pickleball	Other

Indoor recreation

Indoor recreation facilities also play an important role in climate change adaptation by providing safe and comfortable spaces for physical activity during extreme heat or weather events.

Indoor court facilities are particularly valuable for people with disabilities, as they accommodate a variety of wheelchair sports in accessible environments.

Beyond traditional courts, indoor recreation facilities may include community centres with gyms and flexible studios for yoga, Pilates, martial arts and group exercise, enabling adaptable programming for diverse users.

Current provision

There are 25 indoor multi purpose court recreation facilities in our local area. These facilities include 13 indoor multipurpose courts managed by the City.

- Private sector provision of indoor courts is increasing, driven by growing demand for pickleball, padel, and badminton facilities.

Since 2016, the City has delivered the Perry Park Recreation Centre with four indoor courts, as well as the Pymont Community Centre, which includes gym facilities and flexible spaces for recreation programs.

Huntley Street Recreation Centre, a four court facility is completed and will be opening later in 2026.

The City’s community centres also support recreational programs through flexible spaces, with some centres such as Pymont Community Centre and Juanita Nielsen providing on-site gym facilities. Similarly, our aquatic facilities also incorporate gym facilities as part of their broader recreation offering.

Trends

- Indoor courts are in high demand due to their versatility, supporting activities such as basketball, badminton, futsal, and other indoor sports.
- Private sector provision of gyms, health clubs, and indoor courts has grown significantly over the past seven years, responding to increased demand particularly for pickleball, padel, and badminton facilities.

- Demand for indoor sports courts is expected to grow over time, driven by the City’s younger population, increased participation in modified and social sport formats, and the need for climate-resilient facilities in hotter conditions.

Assessing future demand

Indoor recreation facilities experience consistently high levels of utilisation Demand is particularly strong during afternoons, evenings and weekends, when facilities are used for club training, competitions, community programs and social sport.

Utilisation data indicates that some facilities operate at or near capacity during peak periods. Perry Park Recreation Centre, KGV and Peter Forsyth Centres for example, experience utilisation rates approaching 90 per cent at peak times, highlighting the significant demand for indoor court space across the City.

Based on 2016 bench marks , future planned provision and 2046 population projection an additional 7 indoor courts will be required. This calculation does not consider private court provision which tends on recent provision to be one format only such as for pickleball and badminton.However this increased supply for some sports needs to be acknowledged.

Strategic considerations

- **Adaptability:** design courts and spaces to accommodate multiple sports and activities, including modified rules and community programs.
- **Accessibility and inclusion:** ensure universal design to support people with disabilities, including wheelchair sports and inclusive programming.
- **Partnerships:** continue to pursue opportunities with schools to establish shared-use arrangements for indoor court provision.

- **Private provision:** as supply continues to grow, consider the role of private sector operators in deliverng indoor sports while directing public investment toward addressing gaps in access and equity. Experiences utilisation rates approaching 90 per cent at peak times, highlighting the significant demand for indoor court space across the City.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Increase provision of indoor courts	Planned provision – Huntley Street Indoor Sports Centre - 4x indoor courts - completed – Fig and Wattle Street Developer agreement - 2x indoor courts – PCYC Redfern - 1 court	
Asset upgrade and renewal	– Programmed upgrade and renewal to existing indoor court/ indoor recreation facilities as required. – Future considerations - enclose KGV roof terrace above gym to increase floor space for exercise classes/multi-purpose use	
City booking allocation	– Continue annual Expressions of Interest (EOI) processes to transparently and equitably allocate indoor court use, with priority given to allocations that promote a diverse mix of genders, age groups, ability levels, and cultural backgrounds – Monitor and adjust allocations regularly to respond to changing demand and participation trends across the City.	
City programming	Continue City-led programming of indoor courts and recreation spaces to deliver a broad range of social recreation activities and competitive opportunities	
Indoor community spaces	Ensure any future new or upgraded City community centre projects include flexible, multi-purpose spaces capable of accommodating indoor recreation programs such as yoga, dance, and martial arts	

Figure 46: Indoor courts

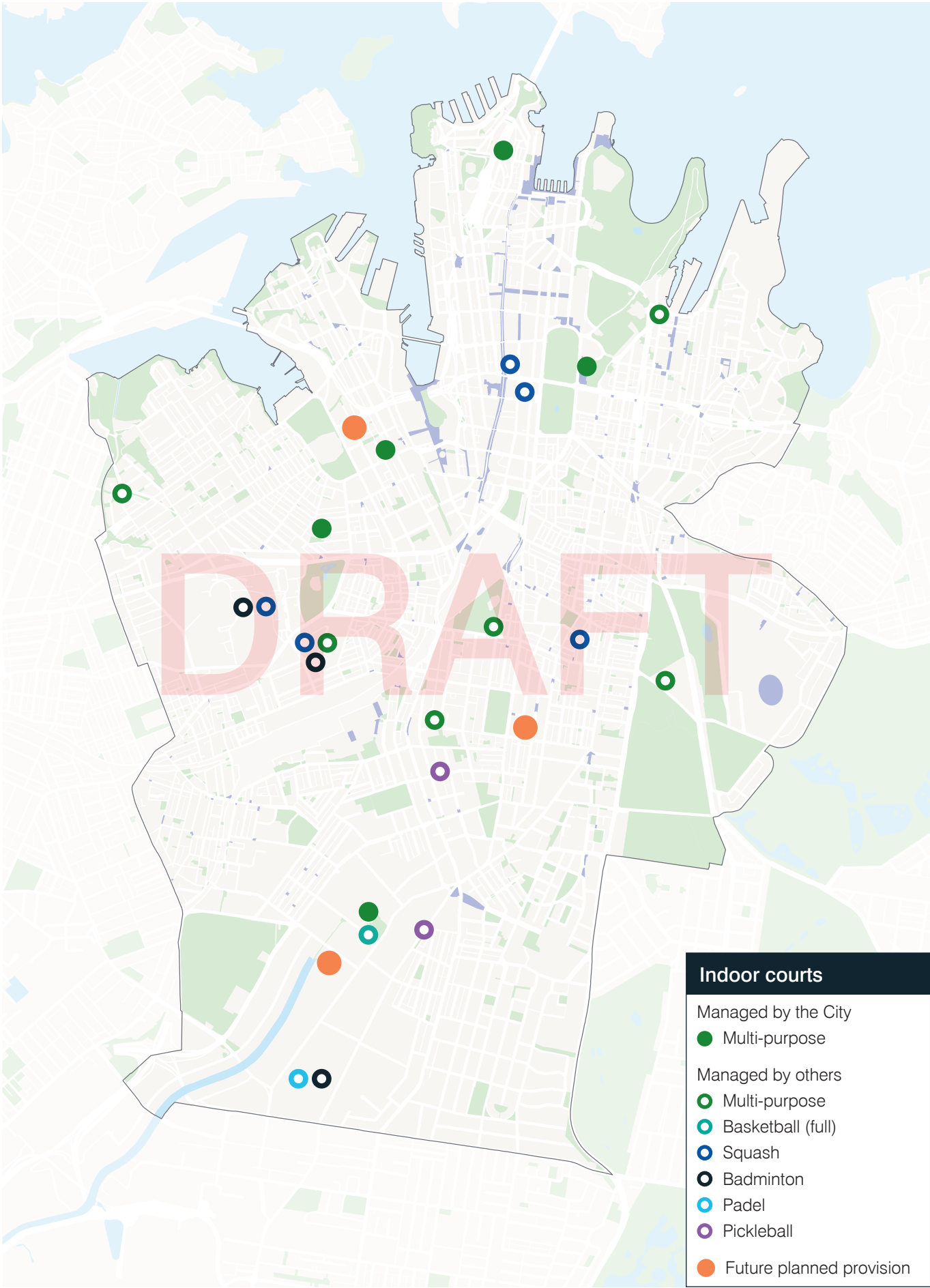


Table 17: Indoor courts

Indoor courts		Court type	Qty	Managed by
1	Huntley Street Recreation Centre	Multipurpose	4	City of Sydney
2	Cook & Phillip Park	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
3	King George V Recreation Centre	Multipurpose	2	City of Sydney
4	Perry Park Recreational Centre	Multipurpose	4	City of Sydney
5	Peter Forsyth Auditorium	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
6	Ultimo Community Centre	Multipurpose	1	City of Sydney
7	Inner Sydney High School	Multipurpose	1	Others
8	Alexandria Basketball Stadium	Basketball	2	Others
9	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	Multipurpose	1	Others
10	PCYC - City of Sydney, Woolloomooloo	Multipurpose	1	Others
11	PCYC - Glebe, Leichhardt	Multipurpose	1	Others
12	Sydney Boys High School - UTS Gymnasium	Multipurpose	2	Others
13	Sydney CBD Squash Club, Castlereagh St	Squash - limited access	2	Others
14	Sydney CBD Squash Club, Dexu Building on Pitt St	Squash - limited access	1	Others
15	Sydney Uni Arena Sports centre	Badminton	3	Others
16	Sydney Uni Arena Sports centre	Squash	2	Others
17	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Multipurpose	4	Others
18	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Squash	3	Others
19	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	Badminton	6	Others

Table 18: Indoor courts

Indoor courts - Private providers		Court type	Qty	Managed by
20	Hiscoes Gym	Squash	4	Others
21	Hoops Capital - EQ Moore Park	Basketball	1	Others
22	Indoor Padel Australia, Alexandria	Padel	8	Others
23	NBC Badminton, Alexandria	Badminton	18	Others
24	Propickle	pickleball	5	Others
25	House of Picklball	pickleball	2	Others
26	Pickleball Island			

● Future provision	Qty
27 Huntley Street (completed)	4 multi purpose courts
28 Fig and Wattle	2 multi purpose courts
29 Redfern PCYC	1 multi purpose courts

Figure 47: Community and recreation centres

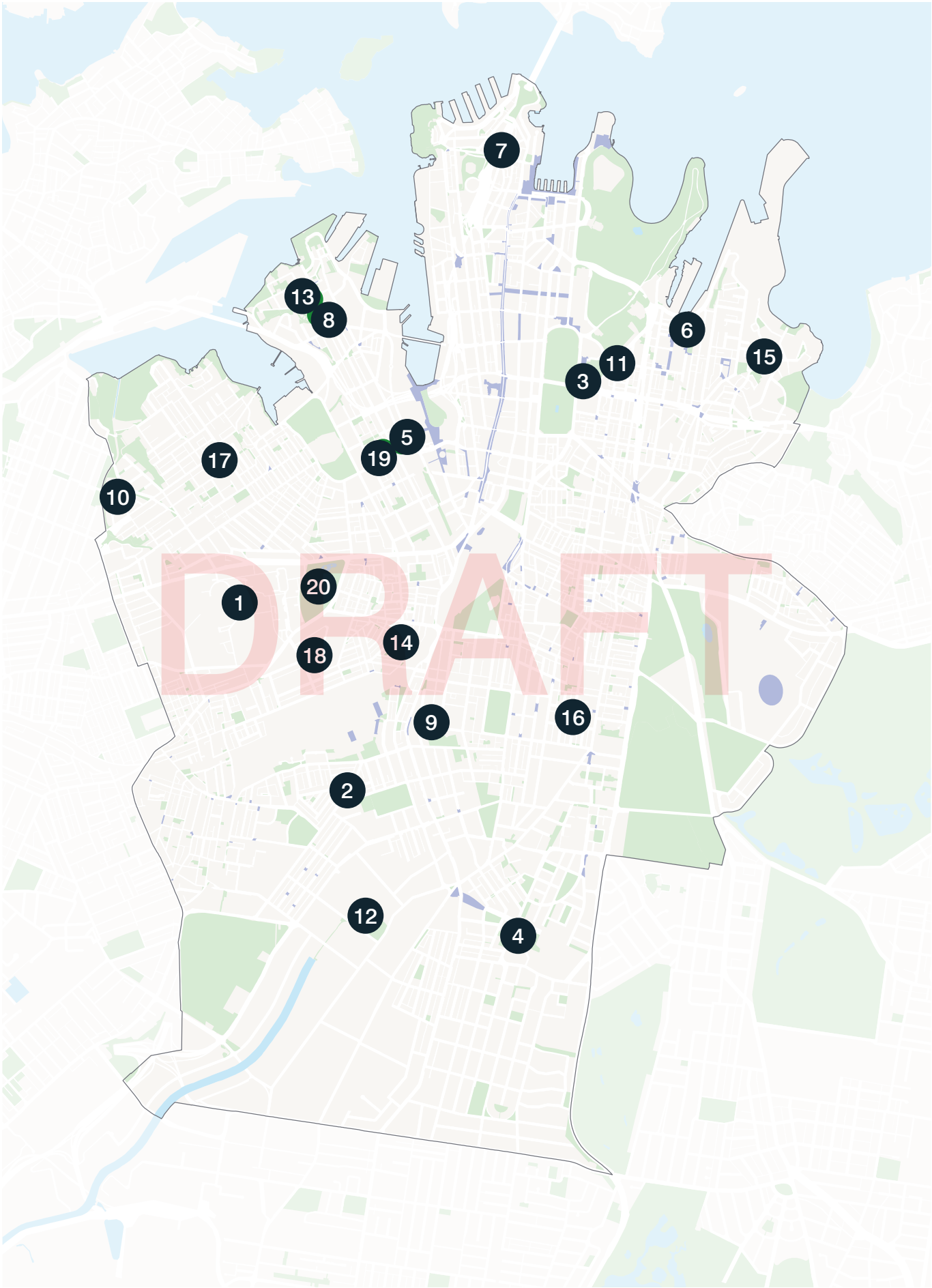


Table 19: Community and recreation centres

Community and recreation centres		Facilities	Managed by
1	Arena Sports Centre	– Gym – Rock climbing wall	Others
2	Cliff Noble Community Centre	– Exercise classes	City of Sydney
4	Gunyama Park Aquatic Centre	– Gym	City of Sydney
5	Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre	– Gym and fitness centre	City of Sydney
6	Juanita Neilson Community Centre	– Gym – Activity rooms	City of Sydney
8	Maybanke Community Centre	– Exercise classes	City of Sydney
9	National Centre of Indigenous Excellence	– Private facility open to the public	Others
10	PCYC - Glebe Leichhardt	– Gym – Boxing/Martial arts – Gymnastics	Others
11	PCYC - City of Sydney, Woolloomooloo	– Gym – Boxing/Martial arts – Gymnastics	Others
13	Pymont Community Centre	– Gym/other programs	City of Sydney
14	Redfern Community Centre	– Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
15	Reginald Murphy Community Centre	– Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
16	Ron Williams Community Centre	– Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
17	St Helen's Community Centre	– Exercise classes/other programs	City of Sydney
18	Sydney Uni Sports and Aquatic centre	– Gym and fitness classes	Others
19	Ultimo Community Centre	– 1 multipurpose indoor court – 2 multipurpose outdoor court – 1 Community courtyard	City of Sydney
20	Victoria Park Recreation Center	– Gym and fitness centre	City of Sydney

Playgrounds

Playgrounds provide opportunities for play, learning and connection, supporting children’s development and family wellbeing.

Overview

Playgrounds are a fundamental component of the City’s recreation network, supporting children’s physical, social, emotional and cognitive development while providing important opportunities for family recreation, social connection and community interaction.

Current provision

106 City-managed playgrounds and a further 7 playgrounds managed by other providers

Playgrounds range from small local play spaces serving neighbourhood catchments through to larger destination playgrounds that attract visitors from across the City and beyond. The network includes a variety of play experiences designed to cater for different age groups, abilities and recreation preferences.

The Darling Quarter Playground at Darling Harbour (managed by Placemaking NSW) is extremely popular with both residents and visitors, highlighting the strong demand for high-quality, child-friendly spaces within the city centre.

A network-based approach to playground provision has been adopted, with local playgrounds providing convenient opportunities for everyday play close to home, while neighbourhood and district parks offer larger and more diverse play experiences supported by amenities such as toilets, picnic facilities and seating that encourage extended stays.

Since 2016

- over 16 new playgrounds added to the network

Assessing future demand

Demand for playgrounds is influenced by population growth, family demographics and changing expectations regarding play and recreation.

The City’s projected growth in children and families will continue to increase demand for high-quality play spaces, particularly within urban renewal areas such as Green Square, Redfern-Waterloo and Pyrmont.

Community expectations regarding playgrounds have also evolved.

Families increasingly seek play spaces that provide:

- Diverse and imaginative play experiences.
- Nature-based play opportunities.
- Inclusive and accessible design.
- Opportunities for social interaction.
- Facilities that support multiple age groups.
- Integration with broader park amenities.

Guided by the Everyone Can Play principles and universal design, contemporary play spaces seek to remove physical, social and sensory barriers and provide equitable play opportunities for diverse users.

There is growing recognition of the needs of neurodiverse children, with playgrounds incorporating features such as quiet spaces, sensory play opportunities and predictable layouts that support different play preferences and experiences.

Inclusive and accessible play

Playgrounds are increasingly designed to be inclusive, accessible and welcoming to children and families of all abilities. Guided by the Everyone Can Play principles and universal design, contemporary play spaces seek to remove physical, social and sensory barriers and provide equitable play opportunities for diverse users.

There is growing recognition of the needs of neurodiverse children, with playgrounds incorporating features such as quiet spaces, sensory play opportunities and predictable layouts that support different play preferences and experiences.

Inclusive play environments may also include communication supports, such as communication boards, to assist children and adults with communication access needs to participate more fully in play and social interaction.



Gunyama Park stage 2
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

Distribution

The 300–400 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that access to playgrounds varies across the local government area,

While many residential areas are located within a short walk of a playground, the mapping identifies several gaps in coverage, particularly within the city centre and southern city centre. Residents and visitors in in the city centre benefit from access to regional destinations such as Tumbalong Park at Darling Harbour, which provides significant play opportunities and attracts users from across Sydney.

However, reliance on destination facilities does not fully address the need for local, walkable play opportunities for families living in higher-density neighbourhoods.

With residential populations continuing to increase in the city centre and southern city centre, opportunities to increase play experiences need to be considered.

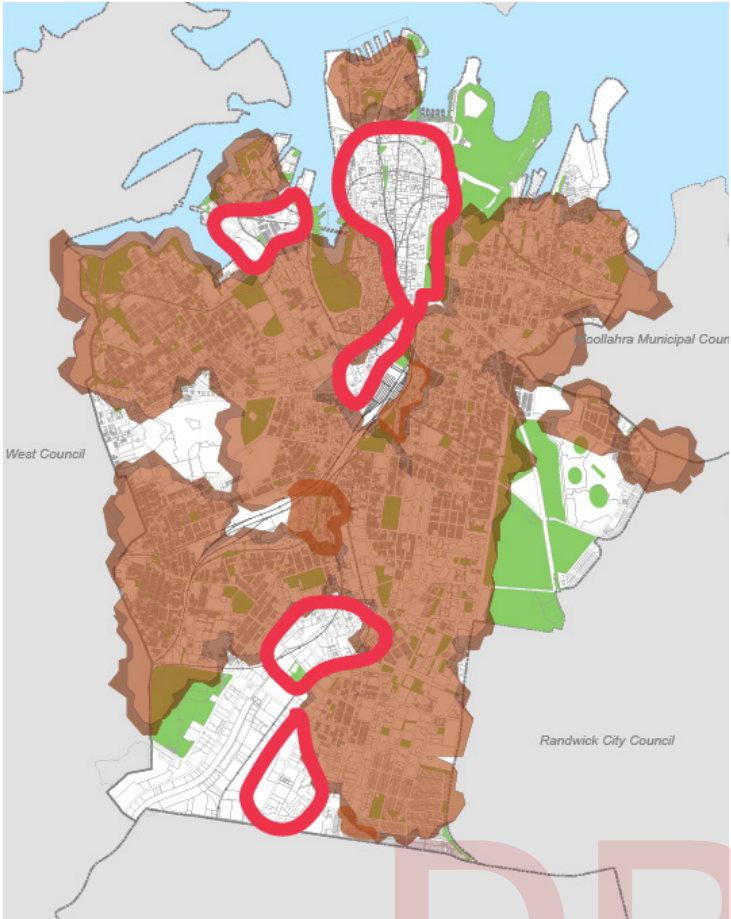
The mapping also identifies other areas across the City where access to playgrounds is more limited. These gaps present opportunities to incorporate playgrounds within proposed new parks and open space improvements, including future parks such as Bank Street Park in Pyrmont.

In addition to addressing gaps in playground distribution, there is an opportunity to review the scale and diversity of play provision within larger parks.

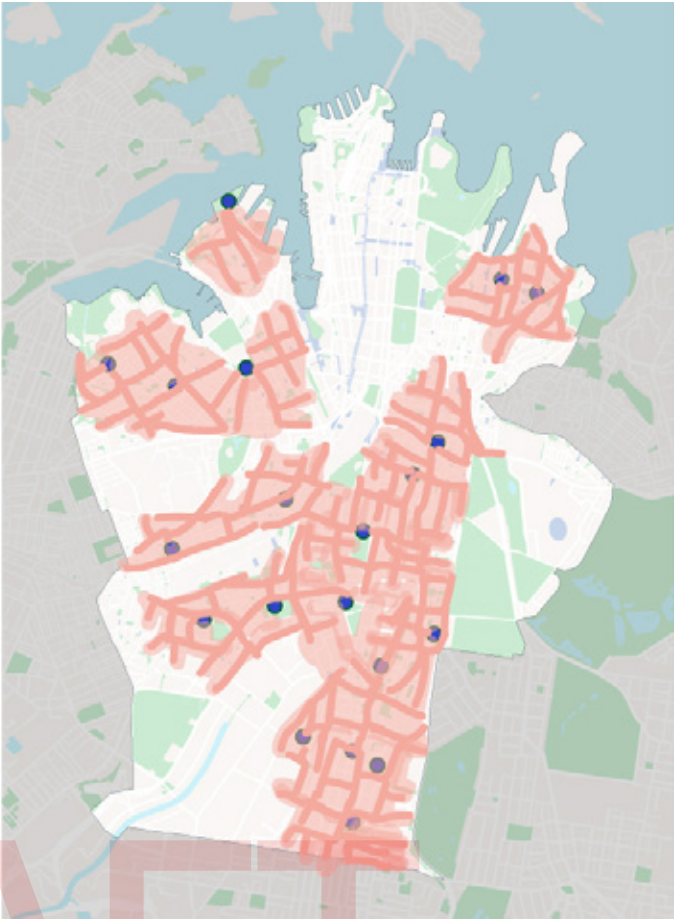
District parks such as Prince Alfred Park have the potential to accommodate a more enhanced play experiences that serve a broader catchment provide a wider range of experiences and provide for different age groups and help meet the needs of a growing residential population.



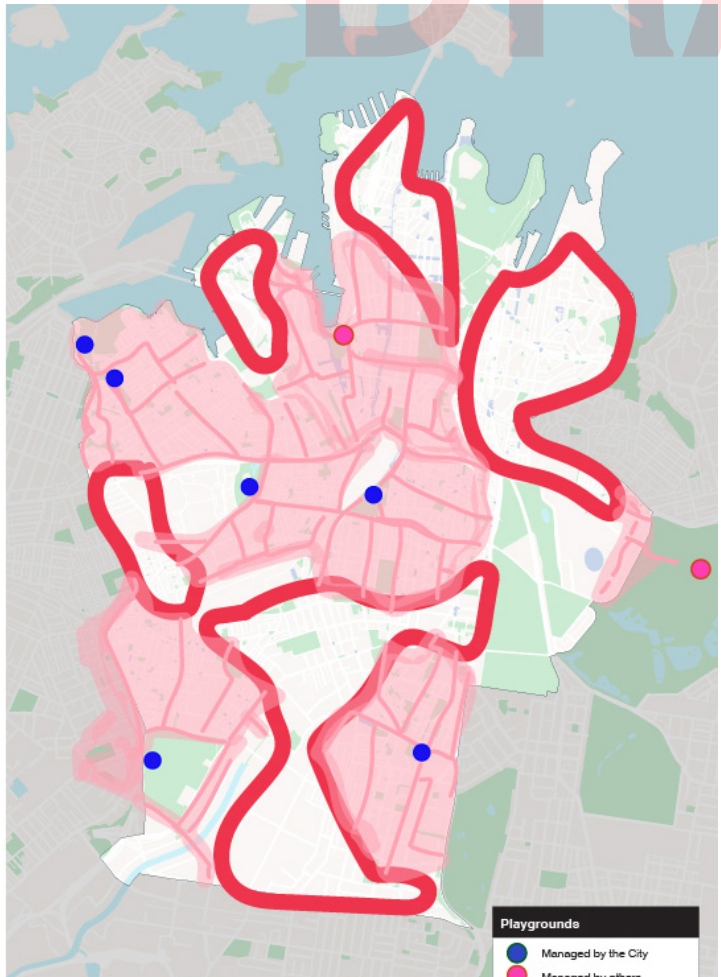
Gunyama Park stage 2
Photo: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney



300-400m catchment to a playground



600-800m catchment to a neighbourhood park playground



900-1200m catchment to a district level park playground

Assessing future needs

The City’s existing playground network provides a strong foundation for meeting current demand.

However, continued population growth and increasing residential density will place additional pressure on existing facilities

Future considerations:

- new playground provision within urban rennewal areas
- expansion of destination playground opportunities.
- continued renewal of existing assets as required;
- increased provision of inclusive play experiences
- improved shade and climate responsive design

Large district and destination playgrounds will become increasingly important as population densities increase and demand grows for family recreation opportunities that cannot be accommodated within smaller local parks.

Strategic considerations

The City’s playground network is generally well developed and provides an extensive range of play opportunities across the local government area.

However, future population growth, increasing residential density and changing expectations regarding play will continue to drive demand for high-quality, inclusive and destination-focused play spaces.

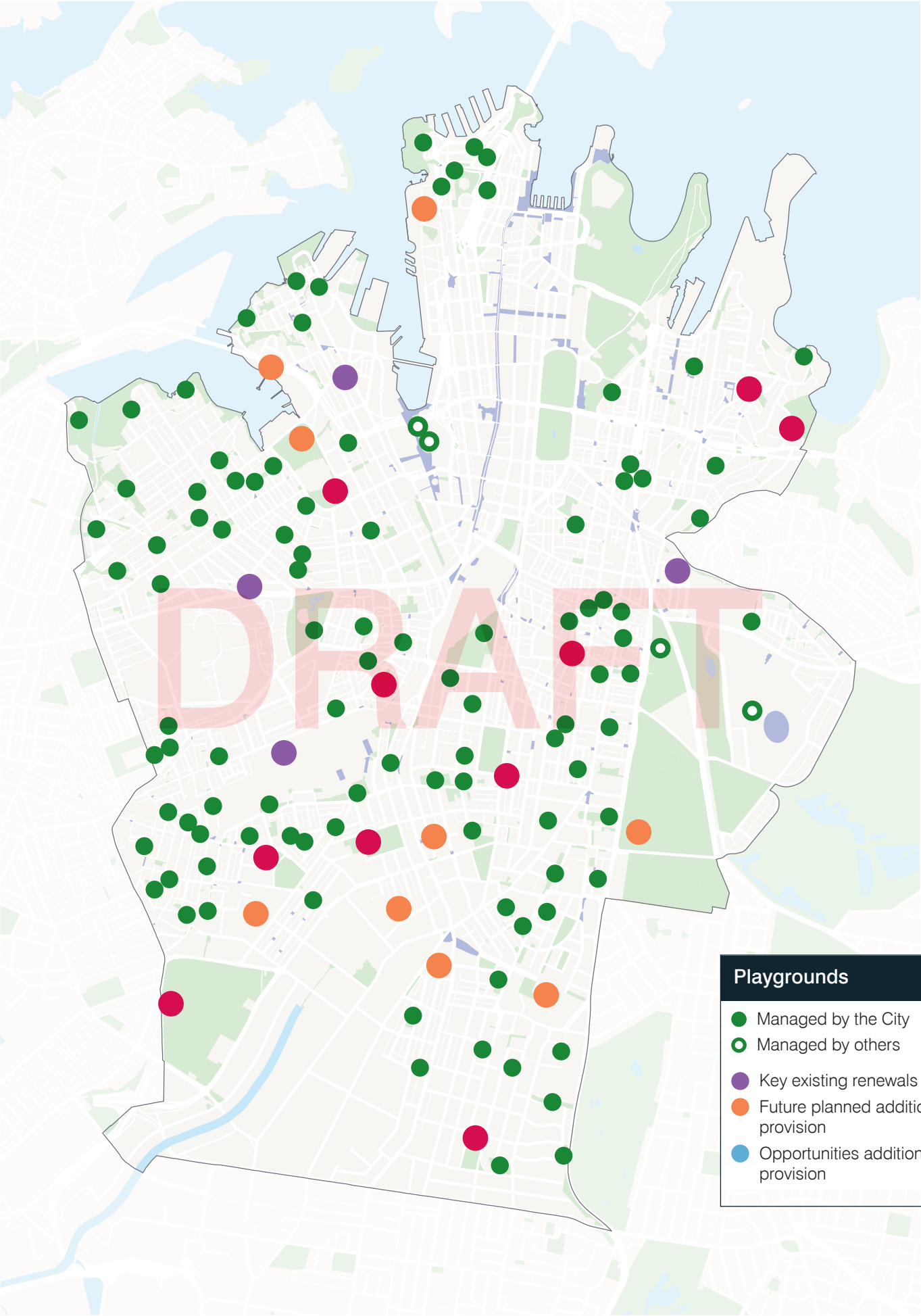
Future planning should focus on delivering new playgrounds in growth areas, renewing existing facilities, improving access to inclusive play opportunities and ensuring play spaces are integrated with broader park and family recreation experiences.

While inclusive play principles incorporated into playground upgrades and new play spaces, there is an opportunity to establish a more strategic network of inclusive playgrounds across the City.

The City has a strong and well-distributed playground network. Future investment should focus on inclusive play, destination playgrounds, climate-responsive design and ensuring play opportunities keep pace with population growth.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action
Establish network of inclusive playgrounds	Undertake feasibility assessment, option testing to establish up to three inclusive playground facilities across the City area. Potential locations for assessment include: – Sydney Park - incorporated as part of renewal of existing playground – Wentworth Park north – others identified through feasibility assessment
New planned Provision to adress distribution gaps	New playground provision: – Gunyama Park (completed) – Moore Park south (Greater Sydney Parklands) – Bank Street park (by others) – Wentworth Park – McPherson Park – Mandible Street sports precinct – 22 O’Riordan Street Waterloo South Park
Future considerations new playgrounds to address distribution gaps	– Elizabeth Healy Reserve, Pyrmont – Selwyn Street, Paddington Streetscape – North Eveleigh urban renewal – New playground near Arundel Street, Forest Lodge
	Support Greater Sydney Parklands to provide additional play opportunities in Kippax Lake area of Moore Park as per Moore Park East Masterplan
Address city centre playground gaps	– Investigate the feasibility of of additional play opportunities in city centre public spaces; – Advocate that future Barangaroo Central Park provides a destination play experience that complements the offer at Tumbalong Park – Assess merit of small scale play opportunities in city centre street closures and other civic public domain
Playground renewal and upgrade	Key existing playgrounds programmed include: – Redfern Park – Alexandria Park – Harry Noble Reserve – Redfern Community Park – Ward Park – Wentworth Park south
Shade	All playgrounds to develop a shade strategy as an integral component of the design process, ensuring shade structures are planned and delivered as part of initial construction rather than added retrospectively. Playground siting and design should maximise the use of existing tree canopy, with additional tree planting incorporated where appropriate to increase shade coverage, improve thermal comfort and enhance the overall user experience.
Strengthen destination play opportunities in major parks	Ensure larger neighbourhood parks and district recreation destinations provide a level and diversity of play commensurate with their size, catchment and role within the open space network. Review the play provision within major parks to expand or enhance play experiences to create destination-level facilities. Key opportunities: – Prince Alfred Park – Turruwul Park – Waterloo Park/Oval



DRAFT

Playground		Managed by
1	Albert Sloss Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
2	Arthur Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
3	Bannerman Crescent Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
4	Beaconsfield Park Playground	City of Sydney
5	Beare Park Playground	City of Sydney
6	Blackwattle Bay Playground	City of Sydney
7	Bowden Playground	City of Sydney
9	Bujari Gamarruwa Park Playground	City of Sydney
10	Burren Street Playground	City of Sydney
11	Butterscotch Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
12	Charles Kernan Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
13	Chelsea Street Playground	City of Sydney
15	Clyne Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
16	Cook & Phillip Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
17	Corning Park Playground	City of Sydney
18	Crete Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
19	Daniel Dawson Playground	City of Sydney
20	Dibbs Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
21	Douglas Street People Park Playground	City of Sydney
22	Douglas Street Playground	City of Sydney
23	Dr H J Foley Rest Park Playground	City of Sydney
24	Eddie Ward Park Playground A & B	City of Sydney
25	Edgley Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
26	Elizabeth McCrea Playground	City of Sydney
27	Ernest Pederson Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
28	Ernest Wright Playground	City of Sydney
29	Ethel Street Playground	City of Sydney
30	Ethel Turner Park Playground	City of Sydney
32	Fanny Place Playground	City of Sydney
33	Federal Park Playground	City of Sydney

Playground		Managed by
34	Fig Lane Park Playground	City of Sydney
35	Fitzroy Gardens Playground	City of Sydney
36	Flora & Knight Sts Reserve Playground A, B, C & D	City of Sydney
37	Frances Newton Playground	City of Sydney
38	Garraway Park Playground	City of Sydney
39	Glebe Street Playground	City of Sydney
40	Goddard Playground	City of Sydney
42	Green Ban Park Playground	City of Sydney
43	Hansom Cab Place Playground	City of Sydney
44	Harold Park Playground	City of Sydney
45	Harry Noble Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
46	Hollis Park Playground	City of Sydney
47	Jack Shuttlesworth Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
48	James Hilder Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
49	James Watkinson Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
50	Janet Beirne Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
51	Jubilee Park Playground	City of Sydney
52	Kimberly Grove Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
53	King George V Recreation Centre Playground	City of Sydney
54	Kirsova Playground #1	City of Sydney
55	Kirsova Playground #2	City of Sydney
56	Kirsova Playground #3	City of Sydney
57	Lacrozia Playground	City of Sydney
58	Lillian Fowler Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
59	M J (Paddy) Dougherty Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
60	Marriott Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
61	Mary O'Brien Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
62	Matron Ruby Grant Park Playground	City of Sydney
63	Maureen Oliver Reserve Playground	City of Sydney

Playground		Managed by
64	May Pitt Playground	City of Sydney
65	McKell Playground A & B	City of Sydney
66	Minogue Crescent Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
67	Minogue Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
68	Moore Park West Rotunda Playground	Others
69	MJ Hayes Playground	City of Sydney
70	Nita McCrae Park Playground	City of Sydney
71	Peace Park Playground	City of Sydney
72	Pinkstone Playground	City of Sydney
73	Pirrama Park Playground	City of Sydney
74	Pottinger Park (West) The Paddock Playground	City of Sydney
75	Prince Alfred Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
76	Pymont Community Centre Playground	City of Sydney
77	Reconciliation Park Playground	City of Sydney
78	Redfern Community Centre Playground	City of Sydney
79	Redfern Park Playground A, B & C	City of Sydney
80	Renwick Street Playground	City of Sydney
81	Robyn Kemmis Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
82	Rochford Street Playground	City of Sydney
83	Ross Street Playground	City of Sydney
84	Sandpit Park Playground - Eveleigh Green	Others
85	Sarah Peninton Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
86	Shannon Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
87	South Sydney Rotary Park No1 Playground	City of Sydney
88	St James Park Playground	City of Sydney
89	Strickland Park Playground	City of Sydney
90	Surrey Street Playground	City of Sydney
91	Sweet Acres Playground	City of Sydney
92	Sydney Park Playground	City of Sydney

Playground		Managed by
93	The Entertainment Quarter Kids Park	Others
94	The Ribbon Playground	Others
95	The Rope Walk Playground	City of Sydney
96	Thomas Portley Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
97	TJ Hickey Park Playground	Others
98	Tote Park Playground	City of Sydney
99	Trinity Avenue Playground	City of Sydney
100	Tumbalong Park Playground	Others
101	Turruwul Park Playground	City of Sydney
102	Union Street Playground	City of Sydney
103	Victoria Park Playground	City of Sydney
104	Vine Street Playground	City of Sydney
105	Waratah Street Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
106	Waterfront Park Playground	Others
107	Waterloo Green Playground	City of Sydney
108	Waterloo Park & Mount Carmel Playground	City of Sydney
109	Wattle Lane Park Playground	City of Sydney
110	Wentworth Park Playground	City of Sydney
111	Wimbo Reserve Playground	City of Sydney
112	Wood Street Playground	City of Sydney
113	Woolloomooloo Playground	City of Sydney
114	Wulaba Park Playground	City of Sydney

Fitness stations

Outdoor fitness stations in parks offer free, accessible opportunities for physical activity, encouraging social connection, group workouts, and participation across all age groups.

Current provision

The City has established a network of outdoor fitness stations distributed throughout parks and recreation spaces.

There are currently 22 outdoor gyms across the local government area, of which 15 are managed by the City.

The outdoor gyms managed by City of Sydney are typically comprised of static equipment suitable for bodyweight strength, mobility, and balance training. Dynamic equipment is also installed at several locations.

Demand and utilisation

Unlike booked recreation facilities, fitness stations are freely accessible and available for use. While utilisation is difficult to quantify, community feedback and participation trends indicate that outdoor fitness infrastructure is well used and plays an increasingly important role in supporting everyday physical activity. Outdoor gyms are particularly well used during the early mornings, lunch time and evenings. Facilities in residential areas are more popular on weekends.

Issues

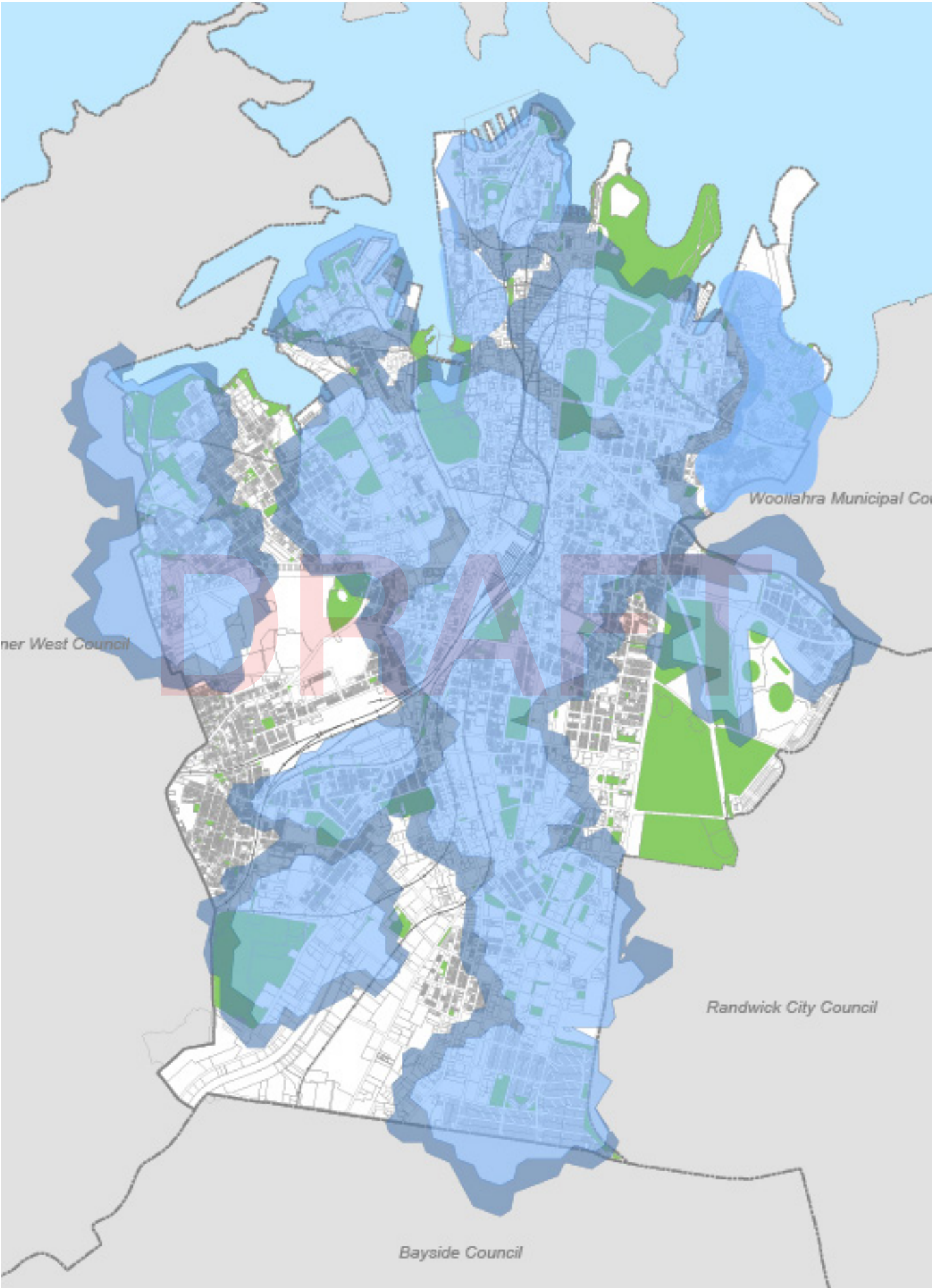
Outdoor gyms, especially those with muscle-focused equipment (e.g. calisthenics rigs, weight-based stations), can feel intimidating or unwelcoming to women. These spaces often reflect a culture of performance and strength that aligns more closely with male participation norms, leading to lower female engagement.

Assessing future demand

Fitness and gym activities remain among the most popular recreation pursuits nationally, with many participants increasingly seeking opportunities to exercise outdoors. Outdoor fitness stations provide accessible alternatives to traditional indoor facilities and support flexible participation.

While the network is generally well established, gaps remain in some areas. The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that outdoor fitness stations are distributed across many parts of the City, providing convenient access for a significant proportion of residents. However a number of areas remain outside the preferred walking catchment. These include central city centre, Erskineville/ Newtown area, East Redfern, and parts of Alexandria and Beaconsfield.

Figure 48: 600-800m catchment outdoor fitness stations



Strategic considerations

The assessment indicates that the City is generally well served by outdoor fitness infrastructure however distribution gaps require a response. Future population growth and increasing participation in outdoor exercise will continue to generate demand for additional facilities and upgrades.

Future priorities include:

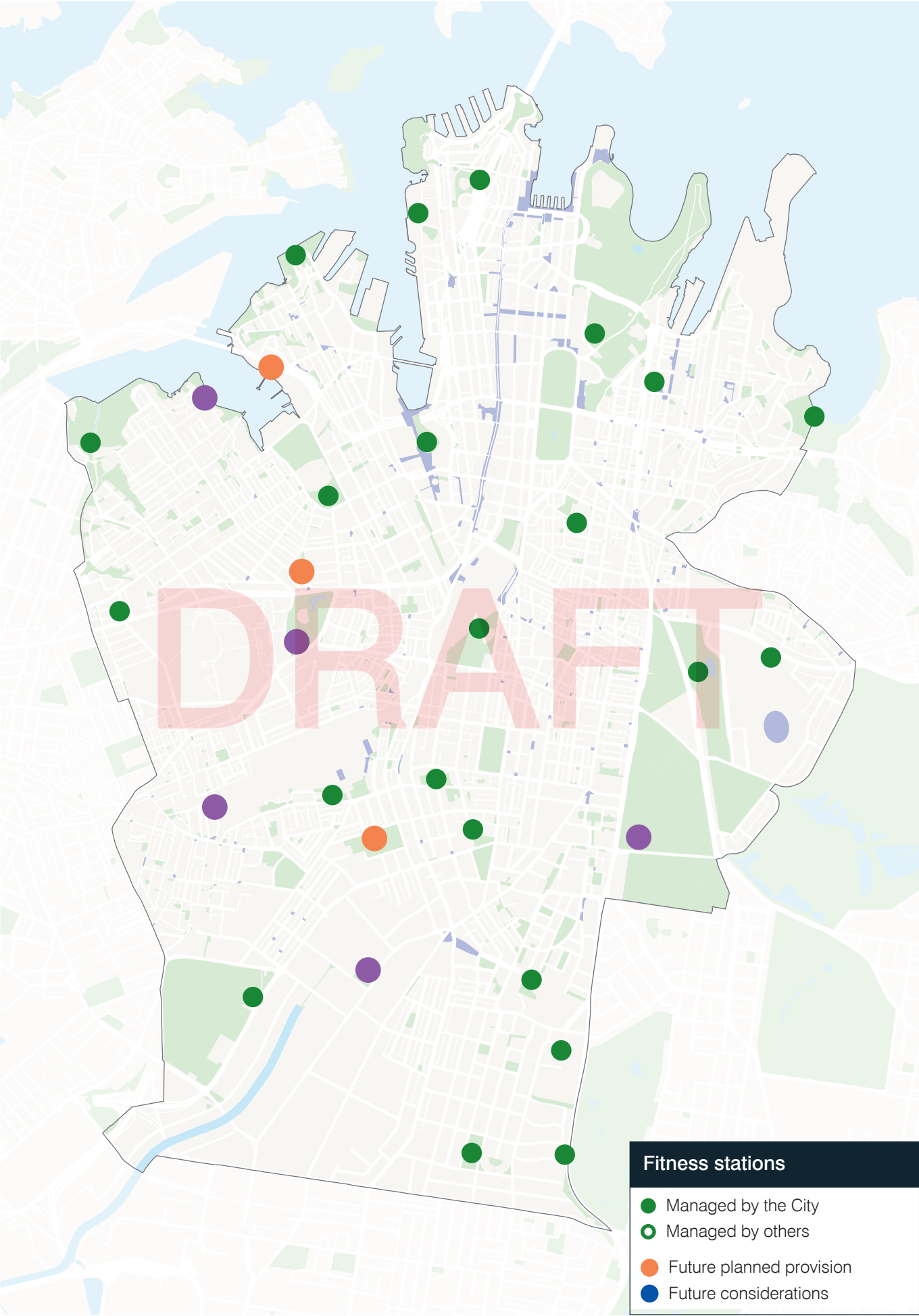
- expanding the network to address identified gaps in provision.
- delivering more inclusive and accessible facilities.
- integrating fitness equipment with walking and cycling routes.
- design layouts and equipment selection to encourage participation by women, including spaces that feel safe, inclusive,welcoming, and socially supportive.
- supporting exercise opportunities for older adults and people with disability

Strategic responses

Direction	Action
Level of service and accessibility	Increase provision so that most residential properties are located within 10 minute walk(600-800m) to an outdoor gym;
New provision planned to address service gaps	– Minogue Reserve, Glebe (2026) – Ward Park (2028) – Alexandria Park, Alexandria (planned for 2028). – Bank Street Park (Place NSW)
Upgrade/replacement existing facilities	Observatory Park, Millers Point (completed)
Provision by others - advocacy	Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)
Recommended future sites for feasibility assessment to improve access and distribution	Sites where new fitness equipment could be located to improve equitable these areas. Site for consideration include: – Albert Street Pocket Park , Newtown. – Victoria Park, Camperdown – Blackwattle Bay Park, Glebe Foreshore Walk, Glebe – Perry Park, Alexandria – Mandible Sports Precinct , Alexandria.



XXX Turruwul Park fitness station



Fitness station		Managed by
1	Bannerman Crescent Reserve Fitness Station	City of Sydney
2	Bourke Street Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
3	Federal Park 1 Fitness Station	City of Sydney
4	Garraway Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
5	Gunyama Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
6	Harbour Park community recreation space	Others
7	James Hilder Reserve Fitness Station	City of Sydney
8	Moore Park - Kippaz lake Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Others
9	Observatory Hill Fitness Station	City of Sydney
10	Pirrama Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
11	Prince Alfred Park Fitness Station A, B, C, D & E	City of Sydney
12	Rushcutters Bay Park	City of Sydney
13	Sydney Football Stadium forecourt outdoor gym	By others
14	Eveleigh Green	Others
15	Sydney Park Fitness Station Group A, B & C	City of Sydney
16	The Domain	Others
17	The Western Block/ Lyons Road Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
18	Tumbalong Park	Others
19	Turruwul Park Fitness Station	City of Sydney
20	Waterloo Green	by others
21	Waterloo Park & Mount Carmel Fitness Station	City of Sydney
22	Wentworth Park Fitness Station - Group A, B, C & D	City of Sydney
● Future provision		
23	– Minogue Reserve, Glebe	
24	– Bank Street Park (Place NSW)	
25	– Ward Park	
26	– Alexandria Park	
27	– Moore Park South (Greater Sydney Parklands)	
	– Alexandria Park, Alexandria (planned for 2026).	
● Future considerations		
28	Albert Street Pocket Park, Newtown	
29	Victoria Park, Camperdown	
30	Blackwattle Bay Park	
31	Perry Park, Alexandria	
32	Mandible Sports Precinct	
Total		

Skate and off street bike facilities

Skate and wheeled recreation facilities are an important part of the City’s recreation network, providing flexible spaces for informal recreation, skill development and youth participation.

Overview

Skate and off-street cycling facilities provide support informal recreation, physical activity, skill development and social interaction and are particularly important for user groups that may not participate in traditional organised sports.

Current provision

The City currently provides a range of skate and wheeled recreation opportunities across the local government area, including skate facilities. These facilities support skateboarding, BMX riding, scooter use and other wheeled recreation activities.

Woollahra Council is planning a youth space at Rushcutters Bay Park (section managed by Woollahra Council) that includes a junior scooter and skate facility, which is designed for beginner and intermediate level skaters and a mini basketball court.

Assessing future demand

Skating, roller skating ,BMX and mountain bike riding are experiencing strong growth in popularity including participation rising among girls and women driven by factors like Olympic inclusion, social media visibility, and an expanding group of prominent female role models.

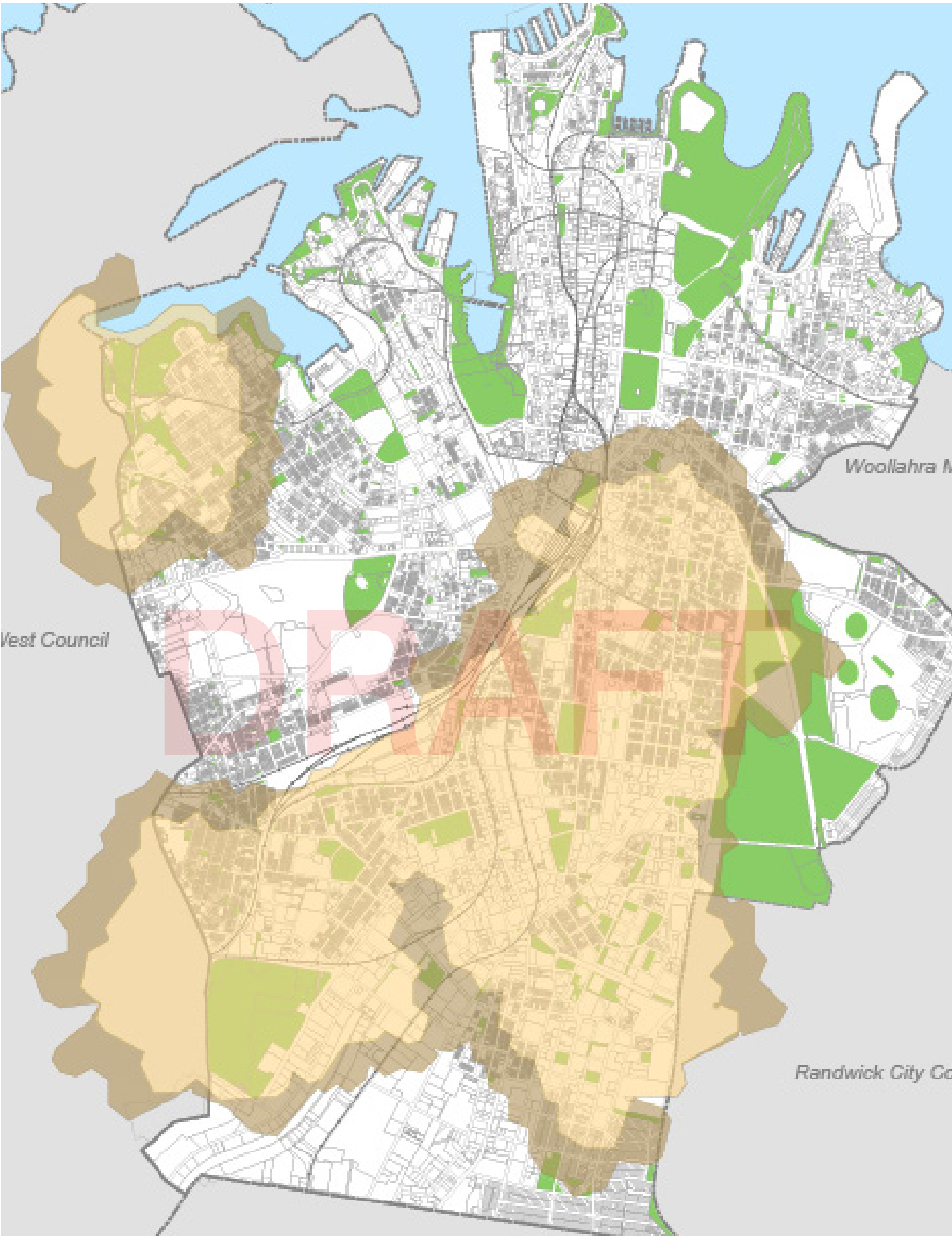
Demand for mountain bike trails and off-street cycling facilities continues to grow. The presence of unauthorised riding within areas such as Sydney Park and Centennial Parklands has created management challenges and impacts on environmental and park values, with visible wear and erosion occurring in some locations.

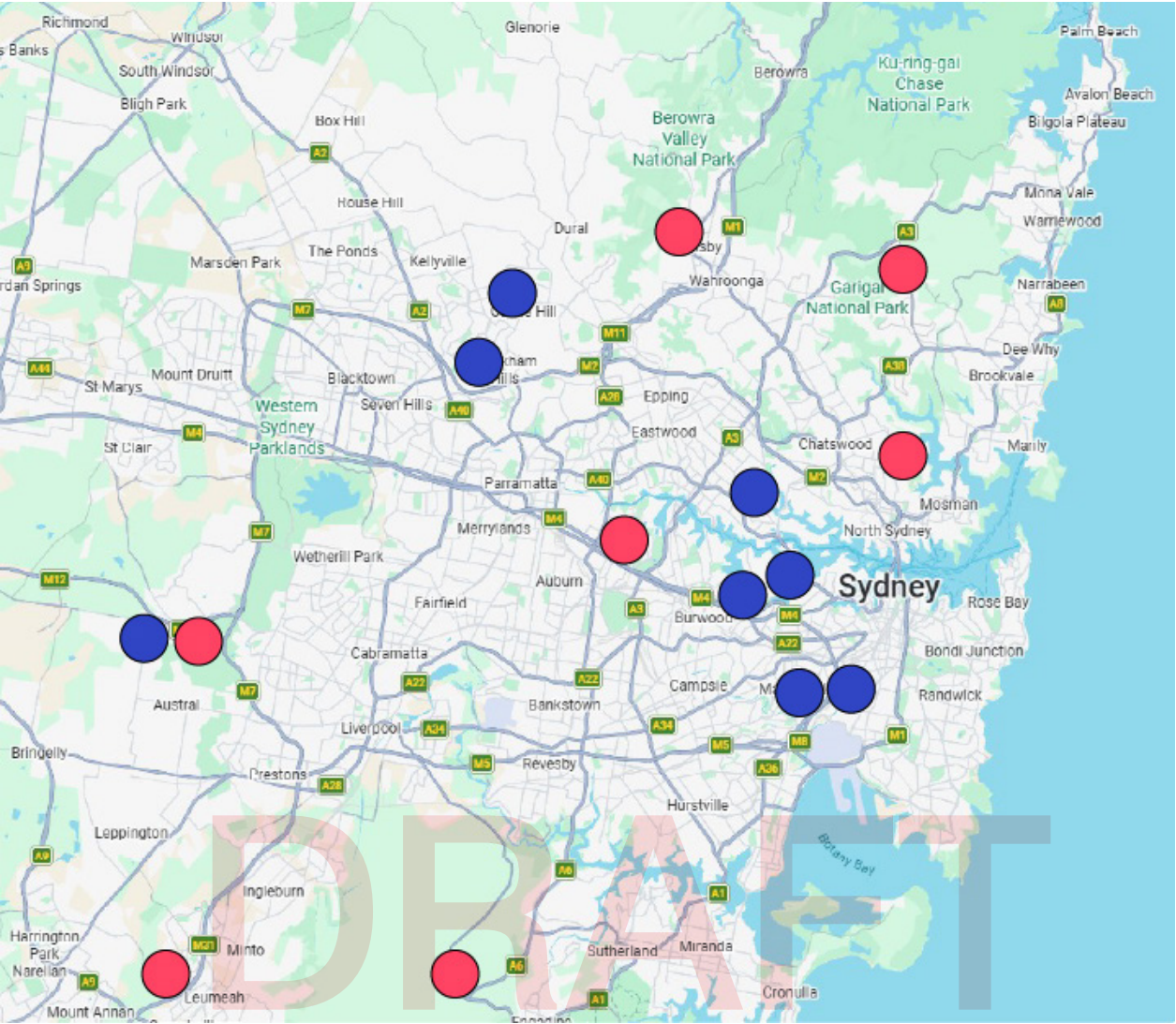
The popularity of these informal riding areas highlights both increasing participation and the unmet demand for purpose-built facilities.

The skate facility network provides good coverage across the central, western and north-western parts of the City through a series of overlapping 900–1200 metre walking catchments. Major facilities at Sydney Park, Waterloo Oval (Fernside Skate Park) and Federal Park function as destination skate parks, attracting users from a broader catchment due to their accessibility by public transport. Together, the network provides a combination of neighbourhood and district-level skate opportunities.

Key gaps are city west/ Pyrmont / Ultimo, city centre and city east areas.

Wollahra Council's proposal for Rushcutters Bay Park will contribute to addressing this gap for junior/ intermediate skaters.





-  mountain bike facilities Sydney metropolitan area
-  pump bike track- Sydney metropolitan area

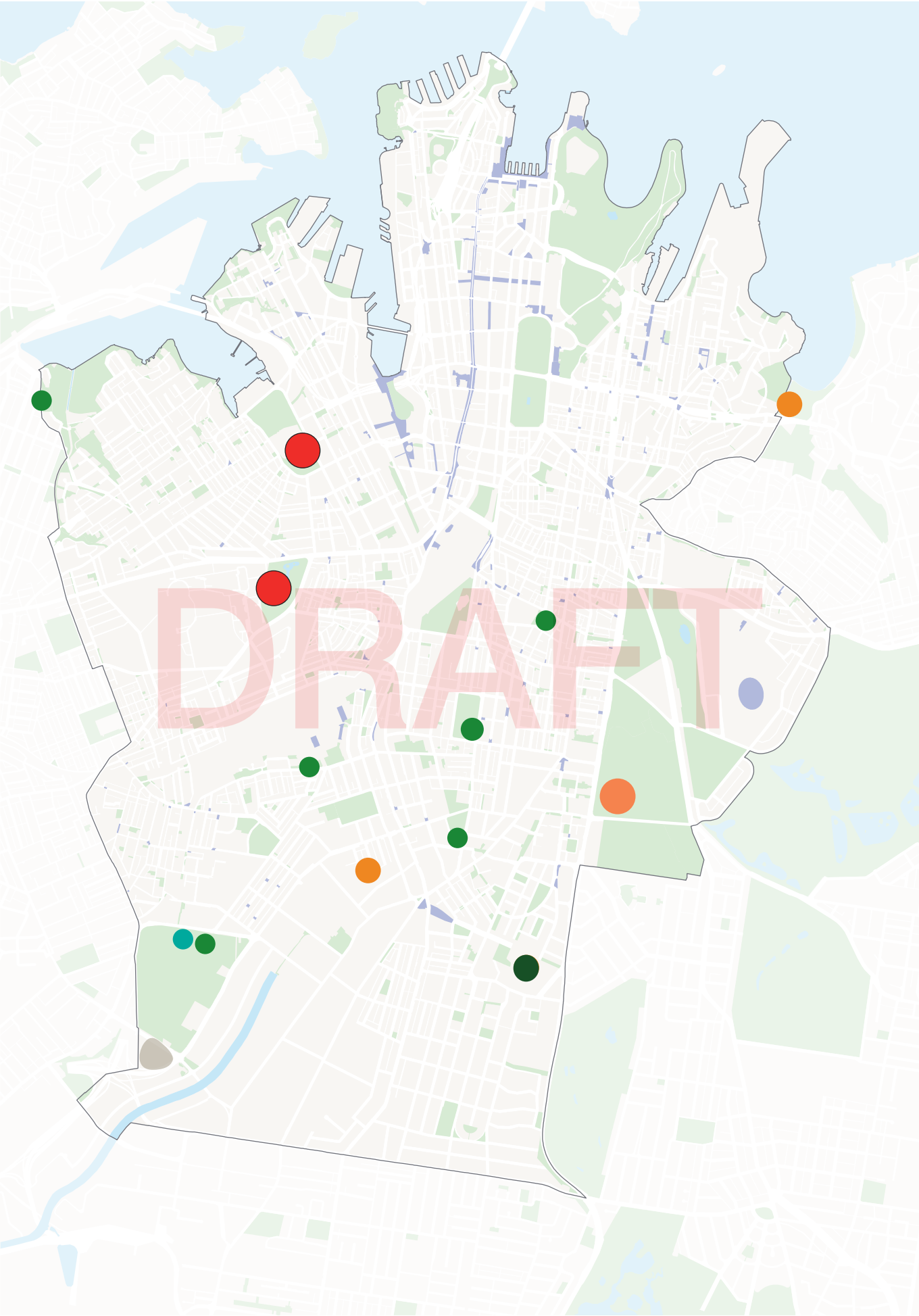
In metropolitan Sydney mountain bike (MTB) facilities in Sydney are largely concentrated in the Northern Beaches, which offers well-developed infrastructure such as Manly Dam, Bare Creek, Oxford Falls, and Deep Creek. Significant purpose-built MTB facilities are also located in Western Sydney, including the major Wylde MTB hub. In contrast, Eastern Sydney has notably few dedicated MTB facilities, highlighting a clear geographic gap in provision.

Strategic considerations

While the existing network supports a range of activities, demand remains for additional purpose-built off-street cycling facilities. Future planning should focus on maintaining and upgrading existing facilities,seek opportunities to increase skate opportunities in the northern part of the city and investigating opportunities to provide dedicated mountain bike cycling environments that reduce damage on parks and natural areas.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Mountain bike facility feasibility assessment	Undertake a feasibility assessment to investigate the potential for BMX and mountain bike facilities within the Campbell Street / St Peters Interchange area. The assessment should consider site suitability, access, safety, noise and environmental impacts, integration with Sydney Park.	
Skate facilities future provision	- Planned additional skate facilities - Gunyama Stage 2 (completed) - Mandible Sports Precinct - skateable moment facilities located with court spaces. - Rushcutters Bay Park - junior level facility (Woollahra Council)	
skate facilities to adress gaps	<u>Future consideration/ assessment to facility facility at Wentworth Park co-located with court facilities</u> <u>- other site for investigation include Victoria Park Camperdown</u>	
Roller derby/ skating	Consider opportunities for roller derby, roller skating and similar wheeled recreation activities within future facility planning, upgrades and programming. Prioritise flexible, multi-use spaces that can accommodate a range of formal and informal recreation activities while maximising the use of existing infrastructure.	
Engagement	Implement youth-led placemaking to better reflect youth preferences and foster ownership of recreational spaces	



Skate and bike facilities		Managed by
1	Ward Park	City of Sydney
2	Federal Park	City of Sydney
3	Gunyama Park	City of Sydney
4	Redfern Park - Russell Crowe Skate Park	City of Sydney
5	South Eveleigh Skate Plaza	Others
6	Sydney Park bike track	City of Sydney
7	Sydney Park skate park	City of Sydney
8	Waterloo Oval - Fernside Skate Park	City of Sydney

Future provision		Managed by
9	Mandible Street Sports Precinct - skate	City of Sydney
10	Gunyama Park - skate (completed)	City of Sydney
11	Rushcutters Bay Park (Woollahra Council) - skate	Woollahra Council

Future considerations		Managed by
12	Mountain bike facility feasibilty investigation - Campbell St , St Peters	City of Sydney
13	Wentworth Park - skate facility	City of Sydney
14	Victoria Park, Camperdown - skate	City of Sydney

Youth recreation spaces

Youth facilities and spaces provide environments that support physical activity, social interaction, and emotional wellbeing.

Overview

Young people are significant users of the City's recreation network and have distinct recreation needs that differ from those of children and adults. Recreation opportunities for young people are typically characterised by informal participation, social interaction, physical activity and opportunities for independence.

As a result, youth recreation facilities play an important role in supporting health, wellbeing, community connection and positive activation of public spaces.

Unlike traditional organised sport, much youth recreation occurs informally and is often self-directed. Parks, courts, skate facilities, public spaces, walking and cycling routes and recreation destinations all contribute to the youth recreation network and support a wide range of activities undertaken independently or with friends. As the population grows and recreation preferences continue to evolve, providing diverse and flexible recreation opportunities for young people will become increasingly important

Current provision

The City and other agencies provides a range of recreation facilities that cater to young people, including skate facilities, multipurpose courts, indoor courts, and skate and off street cycle facilities for BMX.

Woollahra Council is planning a youth space at Rushcutters Bay Park (section managed by Woollahra Council) that includes a junior scooter and skate facility, which is designed for beginner and intermediate level skaters and a mini basketball court.

The Darling Harbour Mirror Wall is a popular space for dance and social gathering, particularly among young people, supporting informal recreation and creative expression.

Issues

Young people who experience social isolation, limited social connection or a lack of belonging can be vulnerable to harmful influences that offer identity, purpose, status and community. Sport, recreation and fitness settings can play an important protective role by providing positive role models, mentoring, leadership opportunities and inclusive social networks that strengthen resilience, belonging and community cohesion.

Research indicates that teenage girls are significantly underrepresented in the use of public recreational spaces. Creating welcoming, safe and inclusive environments that support social connection, informal recreation and participation can help improve equitable access and use.

Trends

There is a shift toward multi-functional youth spaces that combine recreation, socialising, and creative expression. Young people are blending physical activity with digital platforms, using fitness apps, social media, and online communities to engage with public spaces. This trend is influencing how spaces are programmed and promoted.

The growing popularity of social basketball, futsal and other informal court-based activities highlights the importance of flexible recreation spaces that can accommodate a variety of recreation experiences and changing participation trends.

Youth-Led Design and Engagement - Councils are increasingly involving young people in the co-design of public spaces particularly teenage girls.

These include:

- Skate and scooter parks
- Pump tracks and mountain bike trails
- Hangout zones with seating, shade, and Wi-Fi
- Outdoor performance or art spaces

Strategic considerations

Sport and recreation infrastructure should be planned and activated as community resilience assets. By fostering inclusion, positive role models,

mentoring and community connection, recreation settings can help reduce social isolation and provide positive pathways for young people.

Future youth recreation provision should extend beyond traditional sport to include flexible, informal and social recreation opportunities. Particular attention should be given to creating environments that encourage participation by teenage girls, recognising the importance of social connection, safety, fitness and self-directed recreation in supporting lifelong physical activity.

Embed youth-led planning and co-design approaches to ensure recreation facilities reflect the needs, preferences and lived experiences of young people, fostering ownership, participation and inclusion.

Strategic response

Direction	Action	Reference
Provision Youth Recreation Area (by others)	Support Woollahra Council establishment youth recreation area at Rushcutters Bay Park.	
Recognise sport and recreation facilities that support belonging, social connection, positive role models and healthy pathways for young people.	Plan and activate recreation facilities to support mentoring, youth leadership, inclusive participation and community-building programs, with a focus on reducing social isolation and strengthening social cohesion.	
Spaces for teenage girls	Investigate feasibility incorporating spaces and amenities welcoming to teenage girls. Parks for consideration to include: – Belmore Park – Wentworth Park	
Skate facilities	– Refer to previous section	
Engagement	Implement youth-led placemaking to better reflect youth preferences and foster ownership of recreational spaces	

Paddlecraft

The City of Sydney includes more than 12 kilometres of publicly accessible harbour foreshore, increasingly valued by residents as everyday recreational space.

Overview

Sydney Harbour provide unique opportunities for paddlecraft and water-based recreation. Activities such as kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding and dragon boating are becoming increasingly popular and contribute to the diversity of recreation opportunities available within the City.

Unlike many other recreation activities, paddlecraft recreation relies on specialised infrastructure including launch points, storage facilities, waterfront access and supporting amenities. The availability of this infrastructure directly influences participation and future growth opportunities.

Current provision

Paddlecraft activities are currently supported through a range of facilities provided by the City and other public agencies. These include seawall steps, pontoons, and other foreshore access points that enable the launching and retrieval of craft, as well as a mix of formal and informal storage facilities.

Trends

Kayaking and canoeing have become increasingly popular recreational activities on Sydney Harbour, offering residents and visitors a low-impact, nature-connected way to explore the city’s iconic waterways.

Issues

Councils are increasingly requested to cater for the growing demand for watercraft storage and convenient harbour access.

However public land along the foreshore is limited and subject to high and competing demand. Foreshore parkland is particularly constrained and valued for a wide range of active and passive recreational uses, placing pressure on its capacity to accommodate additional infrastructure.

Strategic considerations

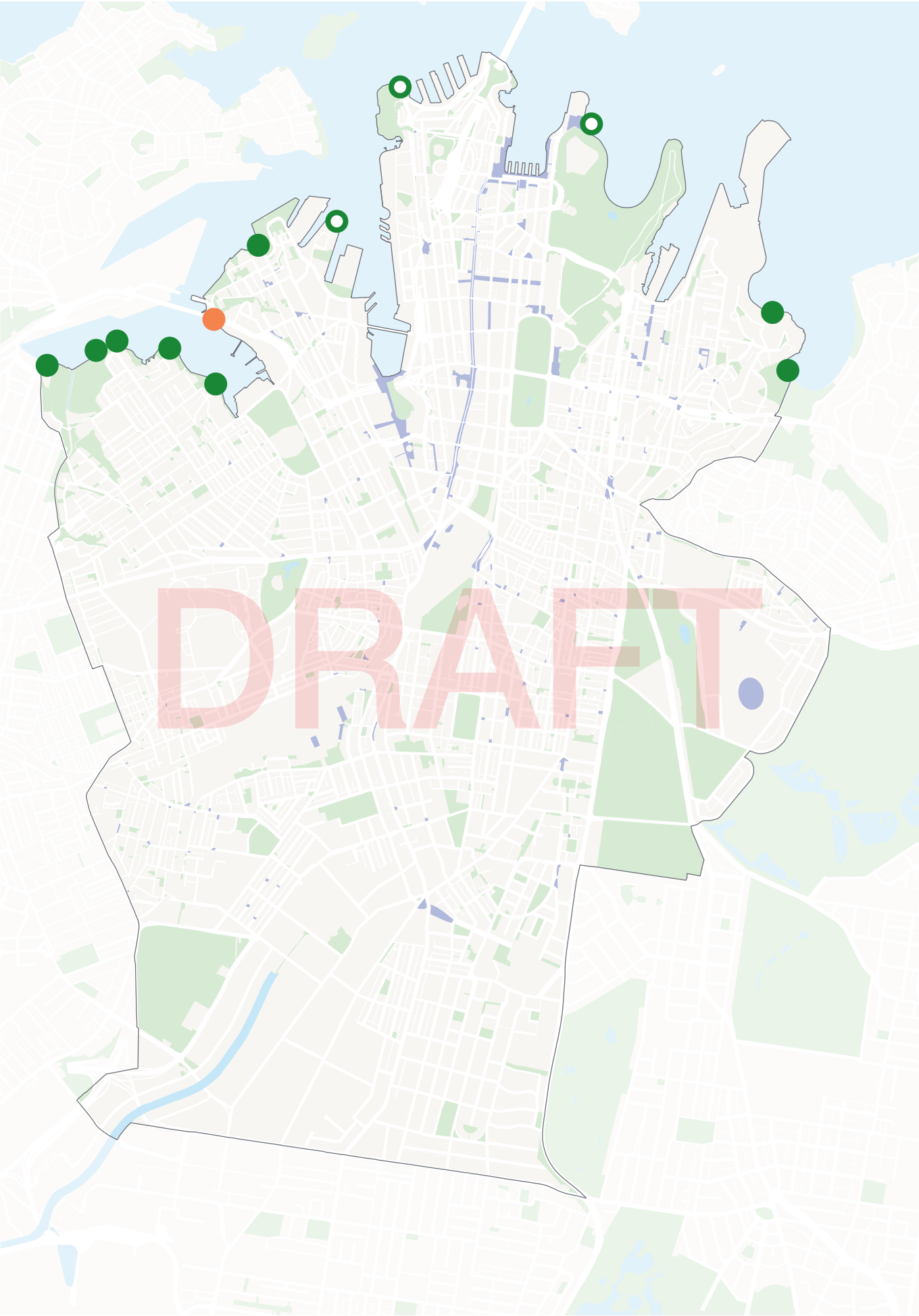
Sydney Harbour represents one of the City’s most significant recreation assets and provides unique opportunities for paddlecraft and water-based recreation. Demand for kayaking, paddleboarding and other paddlecraft activities is expected to continue growing as interest in outdoor and nature-based recreation increases.

Future planning should focus on improving access to waterways, expanding supporting infrastructure and ensuring water-based recreation forms an integrated component of the City’s broader recreation network.

A coordinated, cross-agency approach is required to integrate storage, launch, and access infrastructure with broader open space, transport, and waterways planning, while supporting safe use, adaptability to changing recreational trends, and long-term asset management.

Strategic responses

Direction	Action	Reference
Increase the provision and availability of storage and water access	Planned new facilities include: – Bank Street Park (Infrastructure NSW) to include a new public pontoon and launch jetty and storage for paddle craft and dragon boats	
Foreshore sites for assessment to improve paddlecraft recreation	City parks for feasibility assessment and consultation for storage rack for kayaks and paddleboards, enhanced water access stairs and, shower points for: – Bicentennial Park, Annandale – Pirrama Park, Pyrmont – Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay; and – Rushcutters Bay Park.	



Water and paddlecraft		Facilities	Managed by
1	Barangaroo Promenade - Barangaroo Headland Park	Public boating pontoon Sheltered bay for swimming	Infrastructure NSW
2	Beare Park & Rotary Park	Commercial Marina with kayak storage Water access ramp within marina complex Water access stairs Off-shore moorings	City of Sydney
3	Darling Island - Ballaarat Park	Public ferry wharf	Place Management NSW
4	Glebe Foreshore - Bicentennial Park East	Water access stairs	City of Sydney
5	Glebe Foreshore - Bicentennial Park West	Public boating pontoon Water access stairs Temporary dragonboat storage	City of Sydney
6	Glebe Foreshore - Blackwattle Bay Park East	Public boating pontoon Water access stairs	City of Sydney
7	Glebe Foreshore - Blackwattle Bay Park West	Public boating pontoon Water access stairs Storage rack for outrigger canoes	City of Sydney
8	Glebe Foreshore - Pope Paul Reserve	Water access stairs	City of Sydney
9	Opera House and Botanic Gardens Precinct	Public boating pontoon Commercial kayak rental	Transport for NSW
10	Pymont Foreshore North - Pirrama Park	Water access stairs Sheltered bay Public boating pontoon.	City of Sydney
11	Rushcutters Bay Park West	Water access stairs Off-shore moorings	City of Sydney

● Future provision

12	Blackwattle Bay - Bank Street Park Precinct	Future water access ramp for boats Future storage for dragon boats Future commercial marina	Others
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● Future considerations

Sites for feasibility assessment		Bicentennial Park west , Annandale - upgrade facility Pirrama Park, Pymont Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay; and Rushcutters Bay Park
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Walking and cycling

Walking and cycling for recreation are among the most popular activities across all age groups in the community.

Overview

Walking and cycling are embedded in everyday life and support recreation, exercise, social interaction and active transport. Rather than relying on dedicated recreation facilities, these activities are supported by an extensive network of parks, streets, foreshore paths, public spaces, shared paths and cycleways.

While the City’s cycling program is primarily focused on active transport, the expansion of separated cycleways also supports recreational cycling by creating safer and more attractive environments for people of all ages and abilities. As participation continues to grow, demand for well-connected walking and cycling routes will increase, reinforcing the importance of streets and active transport corridors as key components of the City’s recreation network.

Current provision

The City has invested significantly in walking and cycling infrastructure over recent years, improving both recreation and transport opportunities delivering pedestrian upgrades and cycle network improvements. Since 2007, we have delivered a network comprising of 29km of separated cycleways, 66km of shared paths and another 61km of other cycling infrastructure.

Together, these initiatives encourage walking, running and cycling for recreation and transport while creating more welcoming, accessible public spaces for all.

Participation and demand

Walking is the most popular recreation activity in Australia, with almost half of NSW adults participating in recreational walking. Running, jogging and cycling also attract substantial participation and are among the most common forms of informal recreation undertaken within the City. Participation data from Ausplay indicates:

- Recreational walking is the most popular activity (48.2%).
- Running and jogging attract 15.6% participation.
- Cycling attracts 7.1% participation.

These activities are particularly significant because they can be undertaken independently, require relatively little infrastructure and appeal to people across all ages and life stages. Their popularity reflects broader recreation trends towards flexible, informal and self-directed participation.

Strategic considerations

The Cycle Strategy and Action Plan will deliver a connected cycle network. Together with ongoing pedestrian amenity improvements the street will be an important recreation asset in its own right.

Larger parks should be considered for pathway loops for walking and running, supporting recreation, fitness and active lifestyles

Direction	Action	Reference
Cycle network implementation	Progressively deliver the City’s planned cycling network as per the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan.	
Pedestrian amenity street improvements	Continue program for pedestrian street upgrades to improve footpath quality and continuity, enhance pedestrian crossing safety and accessibility, and expand tree canopy and greening to increase shade and comfort.	
Park walking loops in larger parks	Provide and enhance dedicated walking loops within larger parks to support casual walking, jogging, and inclusive fitness activities.	
Wayfinding signage	Continue rollout of coordinated wayfinding signage across the pedestrian and cycling network to improve legibility, navigation, and user confidence.	
Amenities to support walking and cycling	Provide and upgrade supporting amenities including lighting, seating, bubblers, and public toilets, to improve comfort, accessibility, and usability for recreational users of all ages. Integrate delivery with the Greening Sydcanopy planting and greening for shade and amenity	
Regional approach	Coordinate with the NSW Government and neighbouring councils on the planning and implementation of the Sydney Blue Green Grid to strengthen regional walking and cycling connections. Continue support Manly to Bondi Walk with membership, attendance on Manly to Bondi Supporters Steering Committee.	
Gaps and missing links in network	Progress advocacy to address connectivity improvements including: – Glebe Island Bridge – Alexandria Canal – Harbour Bridge south separated cycle link	

Companion animals

Dog exercise is one of the most commonly reported recreational activities in the City’s parks, reflecting the important role companion animals play in everyday life.

Overview

Off-leash dog exercise areas are an important component of the City’s open space network, supporting the needs of a growing dog-owning population.

Off-leash areas provide benefits for both dogs and their owners, encouraging physical activity, supporting social interaction and helping to strengthen community connections.

Current provision

The City currently has 50 off leash parks. These parks range from off leash exercise available at all times to parks that have restrictions for off leash exercise limited to evening and night time hours.

Dog recreation opportunities are distributed throughout the City and vary in size and function from local, neighbourhood parks and larger district parks. Sydney Park provides extensive off leash areas with a paddling pool.

Issues

- Managing dog access to open space presents ongoing challenges in balancing the needs of dog owners with the enjoyment, safety, and amenity of parks for other users.
- Overcrowding and capacity pressures: High-use dog areas can become congested, particularly in dense urban areas, reducing amenity for both dogs and other park users and accelerating wear on turf.

Assessing future demand

With more than 34,000 registered dogs across the City, demand for accessible spaces where dogs can exercise, socialise and play continues to increase.

With rising dog ownership in high-density areas, demand for dog-friendly open space is increasing, particularly where private outdoor space is limited and parks become essential for dog exercise.

Future investment should focus on improving the quality, accessibility and distribution of dog recreation opportunities while maintaining a balanced and inclusive open space network that accommodates the needs of all users

Assessing future demand

The 600–800 metre walking catchment mapping indicates that many residential areas have access to an off-leash dog exercise area within a reasonable walking distance. Coverage is strongest in the central, northern and eastern parts of the City where a number of established parks provide off-leash opportunities.

Although many residents have access to an off-leash park within a 10-minute walk, increasing residential density and urban renewal growth are intensifying demand on existing facilities.

Future provision should consider both accessibility and capacity to ensure off-leash areas remain functional, attractive and capable of accommodating growing numbers of users and dogs.

Increasing population densities is likely to render smaller dog off leash areas unworkable and rationalisation of the existing network is needed to ensure dog off leash activity is limited to parks where this activity can be managed sustainably.

Gaps in access are evident in parts of the southern and south-western areas of the local government area, particularly within urban renewal precincts.

Strategic considerations

Continue to provide an equitable distribution of well-located on- and off-leash areas and ensuring facilities are designed to minimise environmental impacts and maintenance demands.

Future planning should seek to balance the needs of dog owners with those of other park users. While dog exercise areas are highly valued, it is also important to maintain dog-free spaces and protect areas intended for nature conservation, children’s play, organised recreation and passive enjoyment.

Achieving the right balance helps minimise user conflict and ensures parks can accommodate a diverse range of community needs.

